



United States Department of Agriculture

valuing you AN R6 UPDATE

May 2017



for the greatest good

reducing the risk of CATASTROPHIC FIRES



As a homeowner it can be hard to describe the feeling of watching a wildfire approach your house. There's only so much one person can do, and when you're literally in the heat of the moment every hand is appreciated. When the fire crews show up they don't just bring hands, tools and know-how; they bring reassurance and they restore hope.

We're always going to have fires. They're a part of the natural landscape and provide many benefits to our Forests and Grasslands. Managing the risk of catastrophic wildfire and the impacts on our communities and natural resources is a complex task, and it's not one that we as an agency can do on our own.

That's why it's important to engage with our neighbors, landowners and partners. Fire doesn't respect property boundaries, so to effectively reduce the risk of wildfire we're all going to need to work together. By investing in relationships now we set ourselves up for a future of trust and cooperation which will help us with our future forest restoration and fuels reduction efforts.

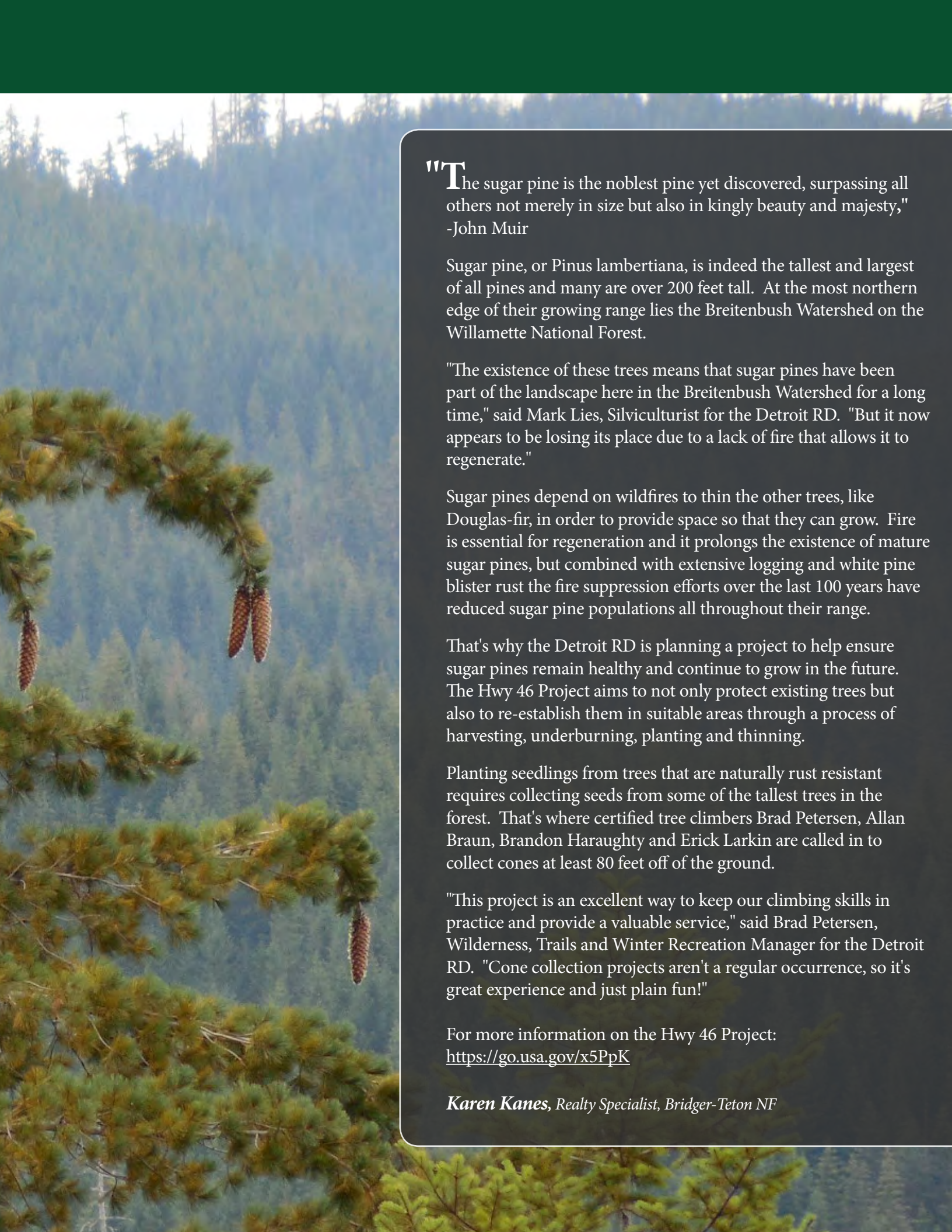
It will also help us keep everyone safer. From our fire fighters on the front lines to the homeowner watching the flames approach we will continue to work hard to protect both lives and resources. For the greatest number... and for the greatest good.

Josh Dawson, Editor-at-Large



aspiring to great heights TO SAVE THE SUGAR PINE





"The sugar pine is the noblest pine yet discovered, surpassing all others not merely in size but also in kingly beauty and majesty,"
-John Muir

Sugar pine, or *Pinus lambertiana*, is indeed the tallest and largest of all pines and many are over 200 feet tall. At the most northern edge of their growing range lies the Breitenbush Watershed on the Willamette National Forest.

"The existence of these trees means that sugar pines have been part of the landscape here in the Breitenbush Watershed for a long time," said Mark Lies, Silviculturist for the Detroit RD. "But it now appears to be losing its place due to a lack of fire that allows it to regenerate."

Sugar pines depend on wildfires to thin the other trees, like Douglas-fir, in order to provide space so that they can grow. Fire is essential for regeneration and it prolongs the existence of mature sugar pines, but combined with extensive logging and white pine blister rust the fire suppression efforts over the last 100 years have reduced sugar pine populations all throughout their range.

That's why the Detroit RD is planning a project to help ensure sugar pines remain healthy and continue to grow in the future. The Hwy 46 Project aims to not only protect existing trees but also to re-establish them in suitable areas through a process of harvesting, underburning, planting and thinning.

Planting seedlings from trees that are naturally rust resistant requires collecting seeds from some of the tallest trees in the forest. That's where certified tree climbers Brad Petersen, Allan Braun, Brandon Haraughty and Erick Larkin are called in to collect cones at least 80 feet off of the ground.

"This project is an excellent way to keep our climbing skills in practice and provide a valuable service," said Brad Petersen, Wilderness, Trails and Winter Recreation Manager for the Detroit RD. "Cone collection projects aren't a regular occurrence, so it's great experience and just plain fun!"

For more information on the Hwy 46 Project:
<https://go.usa.gov/x5PpK>

Karen Kanes, Realty Specialist, Bridger-Teton NF

reaching out to students WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Employees on the Malheur National Forest hosted a group of special needs students from eastern Oregon as they attended a career fair. Moving from station to station the students had an opportunity to learn about a wildland fire engine and they received some hands-on experience with surveying equipment. Other highlights included experiencing their forest in 3-D with a special map and glasses and getting up close and personal with a variety of animal pelts.

Michael Stearly, Public Affairs Officer, Malheur NF



restoring the hebo lake COMMUNITY KITCHEN



The Siuslaw National Forest partnered with HistoriCorps to restore a piece of Civilian Conservation Corps history at the Hebo Lake community kitchen.

Now used as a picnic shelter at the Hebo Lake Campground, it was originally constructed between 1935 and 1936 by CCC Company 622. In need of restoration, the Siuslaw NF, Passport in Time Program and HistoriCorps teamed up to provide volunteers the opportunity to gain experience in rustic building restoration.

"We were thrilled to have volunteers pitch in to refurbish the Hebo Kitchen," said Kevin Bruce, Archaeologist for the Siuslaw NF. "Each of the four volunteer teams got to learn new skills while becoming part of the nearly 100 year history of the campground."

Restoring the entire structure included replacing the log posts and roof shake structure and rehabilitating the stone floor, chimney and stoves.

Lisa Romano, Public Affairs Officer, Siuslaw NF

from central oregon TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Monarch #A6504, otherwise known as "Journey", began his life as a caterpillar in a classroom in Sisters Middle School as part of a regional conservation and monitoring effort last September. Three months later he ended up over 700 miles away in Carpinteria, California, and we are so glad that he did.

As part of Central Oregon's effort to conserve Monarchs a number of milkweed waystations have been setup on public and private land including the Sisters Middle School in Sisters, Oregon. Washington State University is gathering and compiling the monitoring data and thanks to their efforts we know that Journey spent his winter with other Monarchs hanging from willows and eucalyptus near Santa Barbara, California.

This is the farthest south a Pacific Northwest tagged Monarch has been ever been tracked, and tagged Monarchs have a recovery rate of less than 0.1% so let's wish Journey luck on his incredible voyage back to Central Oregon.

Kassidy Kern, Public Affairs Specialist, Deschutes NF

wrapping up the WRANGLE STEWARDSHIP CONTRACT



It was on a clear, cold and crisp day this winter when the sounds of chainsaws and machinery could be heard on a snowy mountainside just east of Winthrop, Washington.

"This is the last year of the Wrangle Timber Sale Stewardship Contract Project which started in 2012," said Timber Sale Administrator Mike Borowski. "So far we've been able to harvest about 6 million board feet from the 1,300 acre sale area and there's still about 2 million board feet left to harvest. This project has been very valuable, not only economically for local businesses here and in eastern Washington, but it also benefits the forest."

The purpose of the timber sale is to promote forest health and resiliency. "The trees are benefiting, are more resilient to insects and disease and now that the dense thickets of smaller diameter trees have been removed this area is more fire resilient," Borowski continued. "That's something that is very important especially after the huge fires that occurred in the county in 2014 and 2015."

"When this project is finished we will end up with a healthier multi-story, multi-aged, fire resistant stand of trees."

Robin DeMario, Public Affairs Specialist, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF

getting to know THE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

The R6 Partnership Council was developed to help build and foster a cooperative working relationship between the Union and Management. It includes ten members, with 5 representing the Union and 5 representing Management.

The Partnership Council is committed to working collaboratively over the long term to address issues that affect employees at a Regional scale and also help educate employees about various aspects of Labor-Management Relations.

In addition, the R6 Partnership Council promotes and recognizes excellence in supervision through training and the upcoming R6 Supervisor of the Quarter.

For more information visit
<http://fsweb.r6.fs.fed.us/partnership-council/>



digger BEAR



A very special thanks to **Jimmye Turner**, Fire Prevention Specialist, Walla Walla RD, Umatilla NF

where in the region ANSWER



Last issue's **Where in the Region** photo was **Salt Creek Falls** on the Willamette National Forest.

Depending on who you ask, Salt Creek Falls is the second highest single drop waterfall in Oregon at a height of 286 feet. Because of the even level of the giant boulders at its crest there is little variation in height and while it typically has good flow all throughout the year it can be spectacular in the late spring when the mountain snow melts and the water rushes down Salt Creek on its way to Portland and the sea.

A wheelchair accessible observation platform and picnic area can be found on site as well as a network of rugged and rewarding hiking and cross country skiing trails.

For more information: <https://go.usa.gov/x5PXP>

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where IN THE REGION

Win a prize for the most correct answers this quarter!
Using the following haiku,
try to figure out the location of the photo.

Send your guess to r6update@fs.fed.us.

Home to giant trees
south of a lake and lodge
in Washington state