



United States Department of Agriculture

valuing you AN R6 UPDATE

October 2016



who's on THE MOVE

- **Justin Burkey**, Timber Sale Contracting Officer for the Willamette NF to Regional Sale Administration Specialist for R6
- **Jana Carlson**, Timber Sale Contracting Officer for the Olympic NF to Regional Claims Forester for R6

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changes and transitions R6UPDATE GETS FULL-TIME EDITOR

By: Josh Dawson, Editor-at-Large

Your hard work, eagerness to share and insatiable appetite for Regional news has not only made us the success that we are today, it has opened the door for even more amazing possibilities for tomorrow.

Together we've grown and nurtured the R6Update from a small newsletter to an informational powerhouse that's distributed from coast to coast. Your stories and photographs have inspired and informed thousands of people that the greatest good is still worth fighting for and that it's worth doing right.

That's why it's my pleasure to announce that starting this October the R6Update will be moving back to the Regional Office. We've grown too big for our needs to be met by a part-time Editor, and that's a good thing.

As I look to the future I can't help but look to the past and I wanted to thank you for the incredible opportunity you've allowed me to have. Serving as Editor-At-Large has been one of the most satisfying and rewarding tasks that I've ever had the pleasure of working on, and it has all been made possible because of you.

To the future!



for the greatest good

who's on THE MOVE

- **Nicholas Grant**, Hydrologist for the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest (R9-NF) to Hydrologist for the McKenzie Bridge RD on the Willamette NF
- **Greg Hotujec**, Human Resource Specialist for the University of Oregon ROTC to Support Services Supervisor for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF
- **Dan Howard**, Forestry Technician for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF to Logging Systems Specialist for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF
- **Katie Isacksen**, Public Affairs Specialist for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF to Assistant NEPA Planner for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF
- **Mason Knuthson**, Timber Sale Prep Technician for the Petersburg RD on the Tongass NF (R10-AK) to Harvest Inspector for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF
- **Jennifer Makinson**, to Visitor Services Information Assistant for the Detroit RD on the Willamette NF
- **Brenda Matlock**, Assistant Fleet Manager for the Siuslaw NF to Fleet Manager for the Siuslaw NF and Willamette NF
- **Hann Mershman**, Sale Administrator Trainee for the Siuslaw NF to Timber Sale Administrator for the Detroit RD on the Willamette NF

breaking ground on the new CENTRAL OREGON DISPATCH CENTER

By: **Kassidy Kern**, Public Affairs Specialist, Deschutes NF

On Monday, September 19th, 2016, the City of Redmond, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Forestry hosted a ground-breaking ceremony in Redmond, Oregon for the new Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center with the contractor for the project, Griffin Construction.

The event was held at the building site located adjacent to the Redmond Air Center. Guest speakers included representatives from all of the respective agencies, and following the ceremonial breaking of the ground the building is expected to be completed by next May.

"The Central Oregon model for collaboration is really represented in the way we do business in Fire and Aviation management," said **John Allen**, Forest Supervisor for the Deschutes NF. *"This Dispatch Center reflects that collaborative, interagency approach and we're proud to be breaking ground with our partners."*

The Dispatch Center currently provides support and coordination for the Oregon Department of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management Prineville District, the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and the Crooked River National Grassland from the Prineville Airport in nearby Prineville, Oregon. The move from Prineville to Redmond will improve the efficiency and safety of fire mobilization operations. Soon dispatchers will be able to see with their own eyes the equipment, airplanes and helicopters they are dispatching and pilots will have greater accessibility to the dispatchers. In addition, the expanded facilities will allow more people to work during the height of the fire season.

Currently eight employees work year-round at the facility, but during the summer approximately 30 people operate out of the Dispatch Center with an additional 25 to 30 employees working out of other offices to help meet the logistical needs of fire crews, smokejumpers, helicopters, air tankers, water tenders, engines and fire teams.



From Left to Right: **Alex Robertson, Jeff Kitchens, Travis Medema, Stacey Forson, Joe Centanni, Anne Graham, Maurice Evans, John Allen, George Endicott, Zachary Bass and Samuel Griffin**

archeological roadshow HIGHLIGHTS OUR RICH HISTORY

By: **Stephen Baker**, Public Affairs Specialist, Media Relations, Region 6
Jeff Walker, Regional Heritage Program Lead, Region 6

This June the Region 6 Heritage Program participated in the Archeological Roadshow, a celebration of archeology and history spearheaded by the Anthropology Department at Portland State University in Oregon.

Over the last three years employees from the Gifford Pinchot, Malheur and Mt. Hood National Forests and the Regional Office have joined with as many as 40 other exhibitors to share with the public the history and prehistory of Oregon and Washington.



This year's theme was the Archeology of Dwellings and the day was a huge success. With representation from federal agencies, tribal, state and local governments, colleges and universities, cultural resource management firms and amateur archeological associations the large and robust historic preservation community had an amazing opportunity to showcase the rich history of Oregon and Washington.

Thanks to the energetic, capable and creative students and faculty of Portland State University over 700 people attended and participated in fun, hands-on activities including atlatl spear throwing, traditional fire building, excavating a mock archeology site and a children's scavenger hunt.

who's on THE MOVE

- **Bret Overson**, Equipment Manager for the BLM to Journeyman Equipment Operator for the Deschutes NF
- **Dirk Rogers**, Engine Module Leader for the Manti-La Sal NF (R4-UT) to Assistant Fire Management Officer for the McKenzie River RD on the Willamette NF
- **Joshua Roy**, to Timber Sale Preparation Technician for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF
- **Dean Schlichting**, NEPA Planner for the Umpqua NF to NEPA Planner for the McKenzie River RD on the Willamette NF
- **Joanie Schmidgal**, Forestry Technician for the Sweet Home RD on the Willamette NF to NEPA Planner for the Sweet Home RD on the Willamette NF
- **Dana Verdin**, Information Receptionist for the Paulina RD on the Ochoco NF to Administrative Support Assistant for the Detroit RD on the Willamette NF
- **Roland Watson**, Civil Engineer for the Olympic NF to Facilities Engineer for the Olympic NF

who's MOVING OUT

- **Cheron Ferland**, Wildlife Biologist for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF to Wildlife Biologist for the Carson NF (R3-NM)

rogue river siskiyou collaborates to get EVERY KID IN A CAVE AND PARK

OREGON CAVES
NATIONAL MONUMENT
SET ASIDE BY
PRESIDENT TAFT
JULY 12, 1909

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT ALL PERSONS ENTERING
CAVES BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN AUTHORIZED GUIDE

To help promote the Every Kid in a Park program the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF collaborated with partners from all over Southwestern Oregon to setup a private tour of the spectacular marble caves above Cave Junction, Oregon.

Working together with the National Park Service's Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve, the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management, the Mt. Ashland Ski Area and REI, an invitation was extended to 10 lucky kids and their parents to visit the caves.

Interpretive specialists shared with them the wild tales of the Caves' geological evolution as the kids were able to see the River Styx, the first and only subterranean Wild and Scenic River in the country.

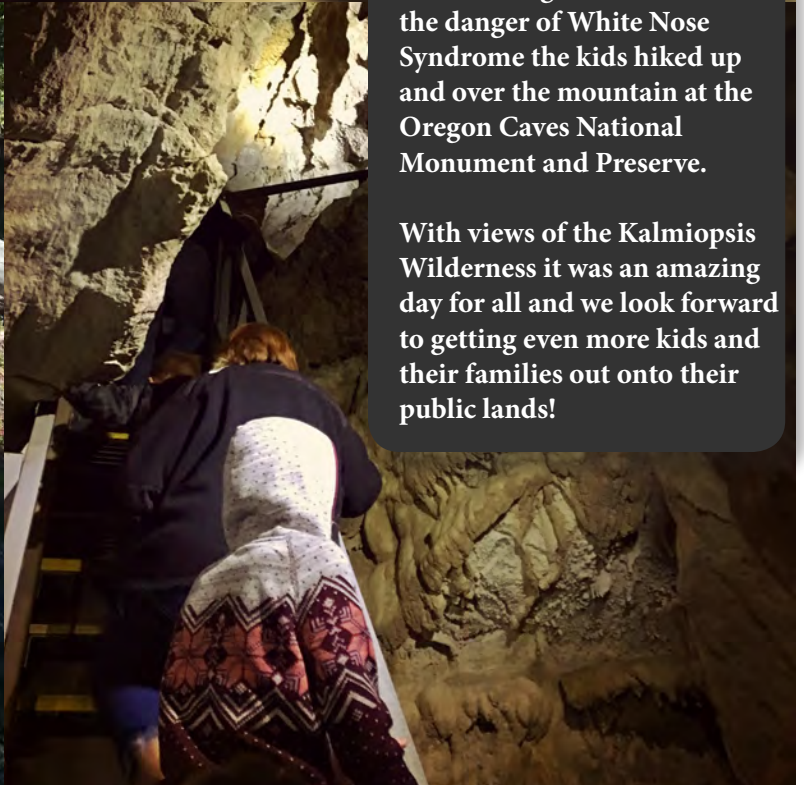
By: *Chamise Kramer*, Acting Public Affairs Officer,
Rogue River-Siskiyou NF

getting every kid in a park AND READY TO GO UNDERGROUND



After marveling at the sites and learning about bats and the danger of White Nose Syndrome the kids hiked up and over the mountain at the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve.

With views of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness it was an amazing day for all and we look forward to getting even more kids and their families out onto their public lands!



honoring and remembering WITH TANKER 61 MEMORIAL

By: **Roland Giller**, Tribal Relations Specialist and Partnership Coordinator, Fremont-Winema NF

Dedicated to increasing knowledge and awareness of aerial and ground firefighting, the Tanker 61 Memorial Wildfire Education Center in Klamath Falls, Oregon continues to honor the memories of two pilots who tragically lost their lives 24 years ago in a Northern California plane crash.

Chuck Sheridan, Pilot of Tanker 61 from 1987-1992 was flying with his Co-Pilot **Leonard Martin** (joined in 1991) when their Douglas DC-7 Airtanker suffered from an onboard mechanical malfunction and crashed while making retardant drops on the Cleveland Fire on the Eldorado NF in Northern California on October 1st, 1992. Both men were fatally injured.



Tanker 61, a Douglas DC-7



Chuck Sheridan - Tanker 61 pilot

Klamath Falls Air Tanker Base employees established a memorial fund to help but the families believed that something should be done locally with the funds to honor the two men who were known for leading tours of the air tanker base and aircraft while educating the public about aerial firefighting.

A Visitor Center designed as a lookout tower where the public could safely watch air tanker operations and view items and pictures that serve as a memorial in tribute to Chuck and Leonard. Employees, retirees and members of the public donated funds, construction materials and volunteered labor to construct the memorial which was dedicated in a public ceremony on October 1st, 1994.

In 2002 a new air tanker base was constructed on the Northeast side of the Crater Lake Klamath Regional

Airport and by 2006 the Fremont-Winema NF funded the relocation and most of the reconstruction of the memorial at its new site.

Today the Memorial is overseen by the Tanker 61 Memorial Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a partnership and group volunteer agreement with the Fremont-Winema NF. Directed by **Marcia Cavin**, the Tanker 61 Memorial Association is always looking for members and volunteers to help with a myriad of projects and ideas. *"We have been encouraging fire prevention activities to take advantage of the public access that the Memorial provides,"* said Klamath Falls Air Tanker Base Manager **Don Cavin**. *"While the knowledge of firefighting decreases the risks firefighters take, the prevention of fire eliminates the risk. What better way to honor those that have given their lives in this profession?"*

For more information contact <http://tanker61memorial.org>



Leonard Martin - Tanker 61 co-pilot

columbia river gorge FIELD RANGERS

Camping then...
and now.

This July marked the centennial of Eagle Creek, the first developed campground on Forest Service lands and likely the first on any federal lands.



By: Rachel Pawlitz, Community Engagement and Public Affairs Specialist, Columbia River Gorge NSA

view from THE TOP

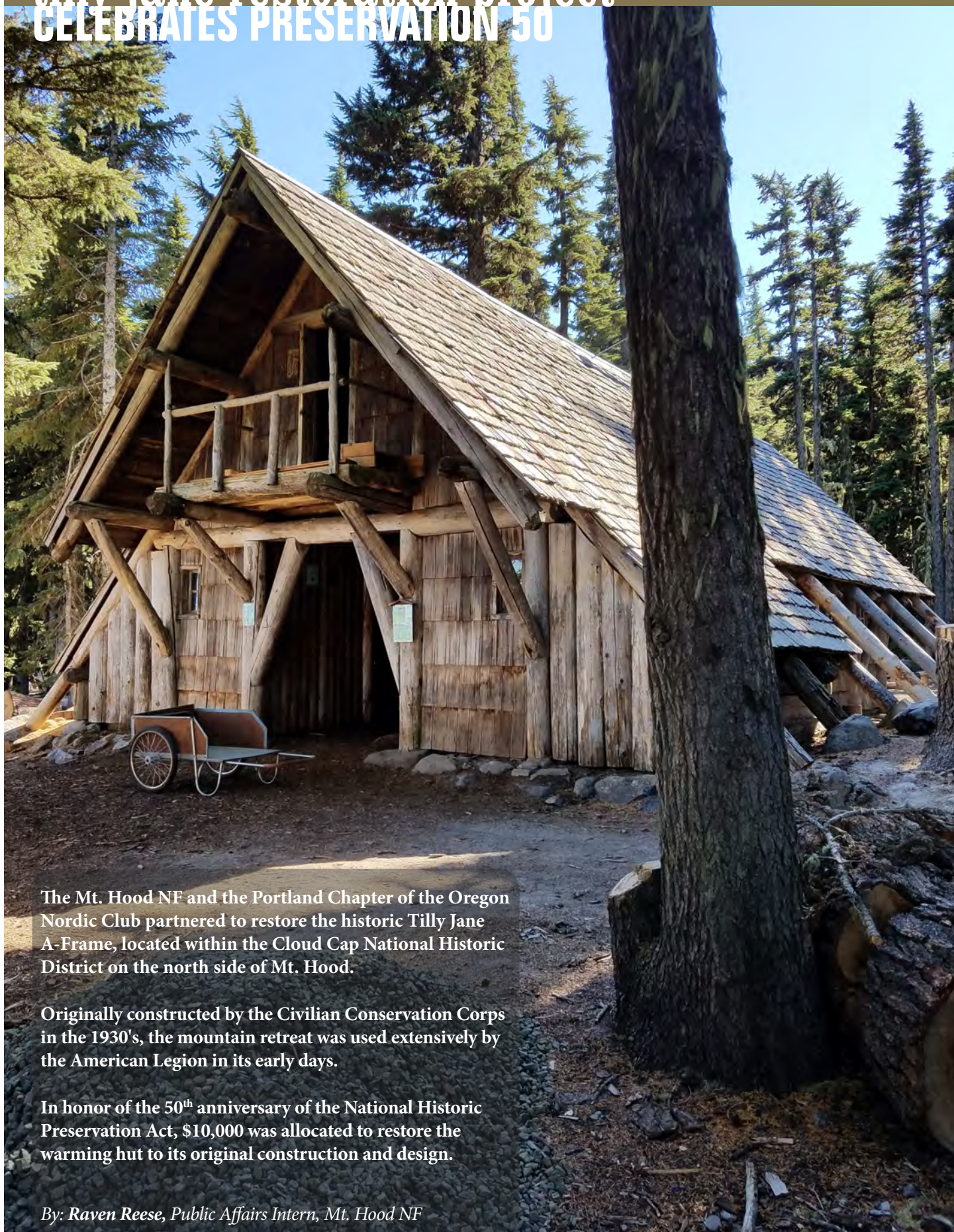
This past July the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF partnered with Latino Outdoors of Seattle, Washington to bring more than forty participants to Crystal Mountain to kick-off Latino Conservation Week.

For many this was their first visit to a National Forest and they all enjoyed a gondola ride, hiked the summit trails and learned about local flora and fauna on their trip to the field.



By: Tracy O'Toole, Public Affairs Officer, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF

tilly jane restoration project CELEBRATES PRESERVATION 50



The Mt. Hood NF and the Portland Chapter of the Oregon Nordic Club partnered to restore the historic Tilly Jane A-Frame, located within the Cloud Cap National Historic District on the north side of Mt. Hood.

Originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's, the mountain retreat was used extensively by the American Legion in its early days.

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, \$10,000 was allocated to restore the warming hut to its original construction and design.

By: Raven Reese, Public Affairs Intern, Mt. Hood NF

making way for monarch butterflies ON THE DESCHUTES

We started with the hopes of creating a small garden where we can display some of the common plants that we process at the Bend Seed Extractory and it naturally evolved into a pollinator garden.

Many of the plants came from seed we collected around the compound and from our backyards which really helped as three of us here at the Extractory have native landscaping at home.

In July we partnered with the High Desert Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon to increase the availability of nectar plants in our garden. They will develop a list specific to Central Oregon and then help us to procure plants from local plant nurseries that we can plant this fall.

This is our third summer with milkweed in the garden, and I now believe, in regards to milkweed and monarchs, that if you plant it they will come!

By: Kayla Herriman, Manager, Bend Seed Extractory



best government story map ESRI INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Katy Strawn, Geographic Information Systems Specialist for R6 Data Resource Management was recently awarded 1st Place for her entry in the category of Best Infrastructure/Planning/Government Story Map at the 2016 ESRI International Users Conference in San Diego, California.

The 2015 fire season in the Pacific Northwest was one of the most severe in modern history. There were 3,800 wildfires in Oregon and Washington with more than 1.6 million acres burned and more than \$560 million spent in fire suppression. Although firefighters were successful in containing 97% of fires in Initial Attack (a rapid suppression effort from firefighter first responders) the spread of a relatively few large, hot fires did most of the damage.

Katy worked with a team of Fire and Aviation staff to build an interactive map to tell that story, and this past June she was formally recognized by ESRI CEO **Jack Dangermond** for her story map that displays the systems that underpin modern society and informs constituents about the nature and scope of the infrastructure being managed.

Check out the map at: <http://arcg.is/1oyUJ2i>



Jack Dangermond and Katy Strawn

NARRATIVE TIMELINE OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST 2015 FIRE SEASON

WOLVERINE FIRE

QUICK FACTS
Start date: June 29, 2015
Cause: Lightning
Fire names: Wolverine, Blankenship and Goode
Total acres: 66,412

On June 29, a lightning storm ignites five fires near Lake Chelan on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and North Cascades National Park. All five fires were considered suppression fires. The **Wolverine Fire** was the only one of these five incidents that became a long-term, "problem" fire.

Initial reports indicated the Wolverine Fire was in the upper third of the slope above Riddle Creek at 5,800 feet. A spot fire was also burning 1,000 feet downslope from the Wolverine Fire.

From the fire's first day, fire managers recognized that this incident had the potential to threaten the communities of Lucerne, Holden, Stehekin, and Domke Lake. Rappellers, supported by a Type 1 Helicopter, were inserted to evaluate suppression options. They reported that continued direct attack posed a great risk to firefighters.

For the next 27 days, the Wolverine Fire was monitored. Intermittent bucket drops were applied to slow fire movement while crews prepared indirect fireline.

People Evacuated - Type 2 IMT Ordered
On July 30, the fire crossed Wolverine Creek and grew to 1,500 acres, resulting in the evacuation of approximately 240 people from Holden Village and Lucerne. This prompted the order for a Type 2 Incident Management Team.

On July 31, a spot fire crossed Lightning Creek and grew rapidly. Two Heavy Helicopters dropped water on the spot fire. Due to the fire's intensity, this aerial suppression action proved to be ineffective. The fire rapidly spread beyond the Management Action Points identified for burning out the indirect fireline from Lucerne to Holden Village.

The Wolverine Fire continued to spread and move toward Lucerne. At 8:15 p.m., the fire spotted across Railroad Creek and rapidly ran uphill to Domke Mountain. The Entiat Hotshots and other firefighters performed burn out operations around Lucerne to protect 30 structures—none of which were lost.

Maximum fire structure at Domke Lake was destroyed when an intense crown fire

ArcGIS Wolverine Fire BACK Sign In

A 3D topographic map showing the terrain of the Wolverine Fire area. The fire's perimeter is outlined in red, and the surrounding landscape is rendered in shades of green and brown, indicating vegetation and elevation. The map is viewed from an elevated perspective, showing the fire's spread across the terrain.

digger BEAR



As always, thanks to Jimmie Turner, Walla Walla RD

where in the region ANSWER



Last month's **Where in the Region** photo was taken on the mighty Rogue River in Oregon on a portion managed by the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF.

In 1895 a permanent mail route by boat was established and propelled by rowing, poling, pushing and sail the mail came through on a weekly route from Wedderburn to Agness. To avoid difficult rapids carriers delivered the mail by mule beyond Agness to Marial, and when the Marial office closed in 1954 it was the last postal facility in the U.S. to be served exclusively by mule.

The powerd mail boats that started with single 60 horsepower Model A Ford engines and were designed to carry 10 passengers have evolved; now you'll find rudderless jetboats powered by twin or triple 280 horsepower engines that can negotiate shallow water and carry nearly 50 passengers... in addition to the mail.

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where IN THE REGION

Win a prize for the most correct answers this quarter!

Using the following haiku hints,
try to figure out the location of the photo.

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

Thirty miles in length
between Helens and Adams
it flows to the Gorge