



valuing you AN R6 UPDATE

February 2016

who's on THE MOVE

- **Justin Anderson**, Hydrologist for the White River NF (R2-CO) to Geomorphologist for the Siuslaw NF
- **Rithy Bein**, Civil Engineer for the R6 Sub-Regional Engineering Organization to Structural Civil Engineer for the R6 Sub-Regional Engineering Organization
- **Chris Bentley**, Public Affairs Specialist for the Mt. Hood NF to Social Media Web Manager for R6
- **Sheila Finney**, Contract Specialist for the Willamette NF to Supervisory Contract Specialist for the R6 Contracting West Acquisition Area
- **Mike Herrin**, District Ranger for the Seminole and Lake George RD's on the Ocala NF (R8-FL) to District Ranger for the Republic RD on the Colville NF

red cross honors DESCHUTES EMPLOYEES

By: *Jaimie Olle,*
Public Affairs Intern, Deschutes NF

On February 11, the American Red Cross honored three Deschutes NF employees with Health and Safety Heroes awards for using their safety training and saving the life of a fellow employee. Supervisory Forestry Technician **Melvin Durrant**, Forestry Technician **Zebbron Watts** and Volunteer and Partnerships Program Manager **Sean Ferrell** were all honored at the ceremony.

On May 13th, 2015 Mel and Zeb were conducting the annual "pack test". **Sean Ferrell** and fellow employee **Steve Bigby**, Road Manager for the Bend-Ft. Rock RD were talking with Mel and Zeb at the finish line when suddenly Steve collapsed with an apparent heart attack. Using their training, Mel, Zeb and Sean went into action applying high performance (hands-only) CPR, calling 911 and retrieving an AED, oxygen and a trauma kit from a nearby vehicle. Zeb did CPR while Sean and Mel applied a shock using the AED. Fortunately, Steve was revived before Bend Fire EMTs arrived on the scene. Bend Fire EMTs then transported Steve to St. Charles Medical Center where he was treated. Since that time Steve has recovered and returned to work.



Sean Ferrell, Zeb Watts and Mel Durrant

what's INSIDE

- Living Through Fire.....2
- Collecting Tree Seeds.....3
- Digger Bear..... 7
- Where in the Region..... 8

Along with honoring the three employees the award recognizes the Forest Service and Deschutes National Forest for maintaining a well-developed program of safety and emergency response training and equipment for their employees.



for the greatest good

who's on THE MOVE

- **Debbie Hollen**, Assistant Director of Natural Resources to Director for State and Private Forestry for R6 and R10 (Alaska)
- **McKenzie Jensen**, Forestry Technician for the Zigzag RD on the Mt. Hood NF to Recreation Technician for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF
- **Cole Smith**, Civil Engineer for the R6 Sub-Regional Engineering Organization to Structural Civil Engineer for the R6 Sub-Regional Engineering Organization
- **Josh White**, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist for the Whitman RD on the Wallowa-Whitman NF to District Ranger for the Three Rivers RD on the Colville NF

who's MOVING OUT

- **Chris Dowling**, Silviculturist for the Olympic NF to District Ranger for the Palomar RD on the Cleveland NF (R5-CA)

who's MOVING ON

- **Kathy Anderson**, Legislative Affairs Coordinator/ Congressional Relations for R6
- **Jewel Carlson**, Human Resources Assistant/ Recruitment/Placement for the Gifford Pinchot NF

living through the fire WITH MUSICAL THEATER

By: **Franklin Pemberton**,
Public Affairs Officer, Colville NF

The Upper Columbia Children's Forest, the Vinson Fund of Colville and Stevens County Conservation District partnered to bring live musical theater to 1,000 K-12th graders in northeastern Washington.

Actors with the Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre traveled to schools and the Cutter Theater for six performances of *Living Through the Fire*, a 48 minute education-based play about the big burn of 1910 and the legacy of Edward Pulaski and his legendary efforts to save his Forest Service crew from the devastating fire.

"The students were thoroughly entertained and the content of the musical was especially meaningful for the fourth graders who are studying ways to manage a healthy forest," said Sally James from Kettle Falls Elementary School. "Before



watching the musical, the students read articles about forest fires and watched videos about this historic fire and local fires from this past summer."

Nancy Lotze, Superintendent for the Selkirk School District said *"Our students came back singing songs and were very excited about the performance. Teachers reported the students (and staff) were engaged throughout the entire hour-long educational and entertaining presentation."*

Show Synopsis: When 5th grade McKenzie is assigned to research Edward Pulaski for a school report, she happens upon his daughter Elsie's diary. Through the diary, she re-lives the terrifying and heroic events of the "Great Fire" of August 1910 that ravaged the Silver Valley of Northern Idaho. McKenzie becomes Elsie (played by the same actor) as she anxiously documents the fate of the town of Wallace in her diary - in particular her father Edward's legendary efforts to save his forest service troops from the devastating fire. Through the town's trials, she comforts her friend Mary even as she herself is terrified. After Edward returns a hero, she - and McKenzie in turn - realize the value of teamwork, family and self-sacrifice.

For more information:

<http://www.cdasummertheatre.com/special-events.html>

collecting tree seeds FOR GENETIC CONSERVATION

By: **Andrew Bower**, Geneticist, Olympic NF

Alexa Pengelly, Web Support Specialist, R6, R2, Olympic NF

In the fall of 2015, Olympic NF Geneticist **Andrew Bower** led a group from the United Kingdom on a whirlwind seed collecting expedition throughout the National Forests of Washington, Oregon and California.

For 2 out of the 3 weeks of their trip Andrew led his colleagues from the United Kingdom Forestry Commission's Bedgebury Pinetum, Westonbirt Arboretum and the Oxford University Harcourt Arboretum. They were awed by giant Douglas-fir, Sitka spruce and western redcedar on the Olympic NF, humbled by the vast areas recently burned on the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF, excited to climb 200' tall sugar pines on the Klamath NF and overwhelmed on nearly a daily basis by the sheer beauty of the Pacific Northwest forests and mountain peaks.

"Being a Forest Service Area Geneticist, it is rare that I get a chance to travel in the woods with people as passionate about trees and plants as I am," said Andrew. "During the two week stint we labored to collect seed from over 90 different trees and shrubs with most of our evenings spent extracting seeds from cones and berries for shipping back to the United Kingdom."

With Andrew's help the group found what they were looking for: cones and seed from the alpine larch, Engelman spruce, whitebark pine, Douglas fir, Garry Oak, noble fir, Hind's black walnut, foxtail pine and sugar pine. After being thoroughly cleaned, dried and stored seeds were shipped to be propagated in their respective home arboreta and for long-term genetic conservation at the Millennium Seed Bank run by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Andrew accompanied the group as far as the Klamath NF and from there they continued further south for another week that included visits to both the coastal redwoods and the ancient bristlecone pines in the White Mountains of California.

The fall 2015 seed collection trip whet the visitors' appetite, and they are anxious to return to the Pacific Northwest and make additional seed collections.

"I look forward to working together in an international partnership with United Kingdom foresters to help secure future conservation collections from high-elevation conifer species that may be at-risk due to climate change"

- Andrew Bower



Andrew Bower collecting larch cones with a pole pruner

collecting cones FROM THE FIELD



Andy Bryce climbing a subalpine fir



Introducing the British visitors to a field lunch of Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches



Collecting Baker cypress cones on a misty day in the Siskiyou

reaching for THE TOP



John Allen near the top of a grand fir

working on the TRIP OF A LIFETIME



Pine and fir cones drying in the sun



From Left to Right: International visitors Guy Horwood, John Allen, Andy Bryce, Daniel Luscombe and Luke Wallace



Collecting cones on a Noble fir

digger BEAR



As always, thanks to Jimmye Turner, Walla Walla RD

where in the region ANSWER



Last month's **Where in the Region** photo is of the Harris Schoolhouse located close to the Fremont-Winema NF outside of Summer Lake, Oregon .

When the one-room schoolhouse was built by the pioneering Harris family in 1890 Benjamin Harrison was President and Idaho and Wyoming were enjoying their first year of Statehood. The little school operated until 1919 when shifting populations forced its closure. It reopened in 1926 and continued to serve until a bus was purchased to transport students to the nearby Paisley School in 1929.

While adjacent to the Fremont-Winema NF the schoolhouse itself sits on private land so please be respectful and only visit with permission.

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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.



A mirror-like lake
is pretty as a picture
in Washington state