

INTERMOUNTAIN REPORTER



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Capitol Holiday Tree 2003



The 2003 Capitol Holiday Tree in all its glory, lit by Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert on December 11, 2003.

The holidays lasted all year long in 2003 for the Boise, Payette and Sawtooth National Forests.

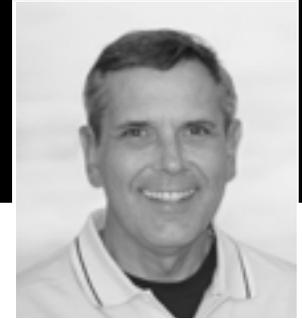
For the first time, Idaho provided the 2003 Capitol Holiday Tree that adorned the front lawn of the U.S. Capitol in December. Although the "People's Tree" was a 68-foot Engelmann spruce from the Boise National Forest, it was a gift to the nation from the entire state of Idaho. The theme for the statewide effort was "From Idaho's Heart to America's Home."

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Regional Foresters Team Message



With the lengthening of days and the warming of temperatures, we are seeing the snow melt quickly from the mountains around the Intermountain Region. Though most areas within the region had near normal snow packs this winter, we are told that spring runoff will be quick and there is little chance of the reservoirs in the Intermountain West filling. We may need to brace ourselves for another long, hot, dry summer.

As we begin another field season it is extremely important that we put safety front and center in everything we do. The tragic loss of Jeff Allen and Shane Heath last summer on the Cramer Fire,

Salmon-Challis National Forest is felt by all who knew them and even by those who did not. Safety is absolutely our highest priority, every employee is to understand that and to act on it. Safety principles must pervade every aspect of our work. We owe it to Jeff and Shane, their families and friends.

Jack, Cathy and I will be visiting each and every forest in the region this spring. Unfortunately all three of us will not make it to every forest, but one of the three of us will visit each forest. With the region's emphasis on the four threats, we want to see first hand forest accomplishments and get a sense of how the four threats

are being integrated into the programs of work.

Competitive Sourcing and Business Process Reengineering efforts continue to be a growing concern. I encourage you to avail yourselves to the many sources of information including that on the FSWEB and The Source. It is a stressful time for most of us so take care of yourselves and those around you.

Have a safe and enjoyable field season.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bert Kulesza".

During 2003, the 1,375 individuals enrolled in the region's Hosted, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), and Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) programs provided \$5.4 million worth of work in the Intermountain Region in 2003.

Hosted Programs are a cooperative effort between the Forest Service and a private organization or another government agency. The sponsoring agency or organization provides the funding and supervision for people to work for the Forest Service. And the Forest Service provides the employment and monitors the effort.

YCC is a summer employment program for men and women ages 15 through 18 from all social, economic, ethnic and racial backgrounds. Their work on federal and public lands is meant to develop an understanding of the natural environment and heritage.

The SCSEP program is designed to provide training and work experience while boosting the income of low-income individuals 55 and older.

Further information about each of these programs can be found on the web at <http://www.fs.fed.us/people/programs/>.



Editorial Policy – *Intermountain Reporter*

The R4 Office of Communication publishes the **Intermountain Reporter** to enhance the region's work environment by sharing ideas and providing recognition to employees and retirees. Features describing innovation, exemplary public service, and on-the-ground examples that can serve as management models are high on the list of topics.

Guidelines:

- Articles will feature Forest Service employees, partners, and/or retirees

contributing to the agency mission of "Caring for the Land and Serving People."

- Text should be clear and concise, and not contain highly technical language or jargon.
- Articles should be submitted electronically as a word document (.doc). Mail submissions to James E. Stone (jamesestone@fs.fed.us).
- Photos without full and appropriate personal protective equipment cannot be used, and will not be considered.

- Color or black-and-white photos relating to the story may be sent as digital images in .jpg or .tif files at 1 mg or less. Send photos with the article and include captions. Do not imbed photos in the article.
- Story ideas may be discussed with James by calling (801) 625-5779.
- All articles are subject to editing.
- Not all articles that are submitted will be printed.
- Editor has final say over content.

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The Holiday Tree and smaller companion trees arrived in Washington D.C. December 1, after traveling more than 5,000 miles and visiting 53 Idaho communities. Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert lit the tree December 11. The tree was cut November 3 along the Middle Fork Payette River, Emmett Ranger District.

Idaho school children created about 8,000 ornaments for the tree under the guidance of the Idaho Department of Education. A 2nd grader and a high school senior won a free trip for them and their families to the Holiday Tree lighting ceremony. Their names were randomly drawn from the thousands of Idaho students who made ornaments.

Idaho nurseries and tree growers donated 70 companion trees for the Supreme Court and other government offices. Hand-crafted decorations from Idaho community groups and individuals; gift bags of Idaho products



The 2003 Capitol Holiday Tree, a 68-foot Engelmann spruce from the Boise National Forest, is carefully placed on a trailer donated by Jack Buell Trucking of St. Maries, Idaho.

and information; and wreaths donated by Idaho Women in Timber accompanied the trees. Idaho quilter and community leader Crane Johnson of Eagle created and presented the Chief a quilt featuring Idaho's Sawtooth Mountains and Idaho national

forest locations where the Chief served. The presentation was at the Congressional reception following the December 11 tree lighting.

"The Capitol Holiday Tree 2003 project is an amazing story of hard work and partner-

The 2003 Capitol Holiday Tree made its debut in the Boise, Idaho Veterans' Day parade before traveling to 53 Idaho communities and 8 cross-country towns on its way to Washington, DC.



ship,” said Boise Deputy Forest Supervisor Suzanne Rainville. “When the three southwest Idaho National Forests (the Boise, Payette and Sawtooth) got this assignment, we knew it was a wonderful opportunity to work hand in hand with our state and local partners, elected officials, communities, private businesses, schools and citizens.”

“The project was also a terrific way to celebrate all that is great about Idaho, including our natural and cultural resources,” added Sawtooth Forest Supervisor Ruth Monahan. “We estimate that nearly 50,000 people throughout Idaho and across the country came out to celebrate the tree and the spirit that made all of this happen.”

The project began in late 2002, when the three National Forests quickly organized a focused but inclusive effort to secure “the perfect tree” for the 2003 holiday season. In addition, the Forests recognized the opportunity to develop strong relationships and partnerships for future activities.

The Holiday Tree was removed from the Capitol west lawn in early January and chipped for use on the Capitol grounds. The ornaments will be distributed to Washington, DC area schools.

Next year’s Capitol Holiday Tree will come from the George Washington/Jefferson National Forest in Roanoke, Virginia.

Further information regarding the Capitol Holiday Tree project can be found at the 2003 Capitol Holiday Tree website at www.capitolholidaytree2003.org.

Cyd Weiland, Boise NF
Capitol Holiday Tree 2003 Project
co-coordinator

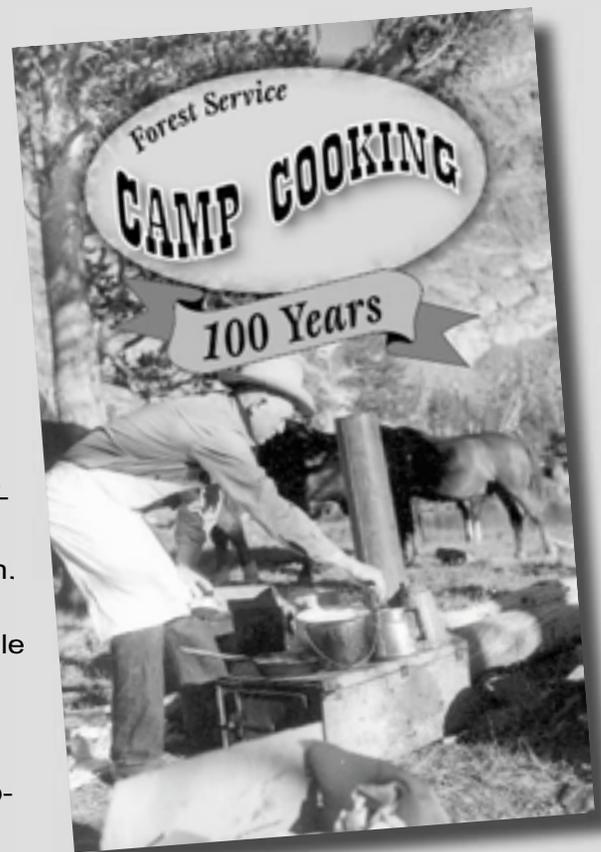
New Century of Service Project

Celebrating the 100th Birthday of the Forest Service, the RO Forest Service Women’s Association (FSWA) is producing a cookbook, as cooking and food preparation are part of the everyday field culture of the Forest Service. If we can consider Forest Service culture as the “liquid ingredient” of the book, then “major ingredients” are Dutch-oven meals, frying pan strategies, saddlebag pack tips, and clever survival hints. All of the “major ingredients” come from throughout the Forest Service.

“Spices” include Mary Ellen Bosworth’s “War Cake” recipe, which she cooked while staffing a lookout with her husband, Irwin. Mary Ellen and Irwin are Chief Dale Bosworth’s parents. “Garnishes” included in the outdoor and camp-fire cookbook are photographs from the early 1900s showing campgrounds, lookouts, backcountry workstations, and workers dealing with harsh weather conditions. “Serving size” is one book, which is expected out of the oven in November.

The FSWA sponsors events to raise funds for charitable causes, including assisting Forest Service employees and community needs.

Beth King
Danny Ebert, and
James E. Stone, Regional Office



R4 abandoned mine cleanup projects

Mining in the Intermountain Region was instrumental in settling many locations from the 1800s to the 1950s. Following the establishment of mines, ranches often followed to feed the miners; roads were developed; and supply centers became towns. The history, cultural resources and towns of the mining era enrich the West. Many of the mines and their mineral processing facilities were on lands that became National Forest System.

But for all the benefits mining provided, the lands were often left with health and safety problems. As mining companies became bankrupt, they had no money to remove toxic materials from their sites, and “abandoned” them.

As a result, Forest Service engineers and geologists have been doing mine reclamation for decades. Currently, several projects are being coordinating to clean abandoned mine and mill sites of their hazardous materials.

Here are a few current samples of major projects, some of which may be close to where you work, live or recreate.

Bassett Gulch Mill

Bassett Gulch Mill near Ketchum is contaminated with lead, arsenic, mercury, cadmium, and selenium. The 25-acre Idaho site is two miles from Sun Valley Ski Resort and one mile from the town of Ketchum.

Three contaminated tailings ponds are the primary problem. They contain a total volume of 30,000 cubic yards. Additional problems developed when tailings were removed from the ponds and placed on nearby wetlands.

Bassett Gulch mill and upper tailings pond near Ketchum and Sun Valley, Idaho. The site is contaminated with lead, arsenic, mercury, cadmium, and selenium.



Former mine owner Brigham Young University has agreed to cleaning the site in conjunction with the Forest Service.

Trash, equipment, and structures not contaminated with hazardous wastes will be recycled.

Cottonwood Wash Abandoned Mine Land Watershed Initiative Project

Cottonwood Wash west of Blanding was once home of the Anasazi, and later supplied Madame Marie Curie with uranium for her radioactive experiments. The Cottonwood Creek watershed is now being cleaned through a Manti-LaSal National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, and State of Utah partnership. Radium is the main contaminant in the watershed, with radon gas being emitted from waste piles and mine openings.

Mine openings are being filled with the waste rock; effectively closing hundreds of unsafe mine openings, reducing the emission of radon gas. The work on 380 small uranium mines is conducted through a State of Utah administered cleanup contract for BLM and Forest Service public lands. The State of Utah is also contributing funds for the safety closures.

This multi-agency partnership team is beginning a LaSal watershed project south of Moab, involving five large uranium mines with drainage containing radium levels more than 30 times over Utah drinking water maximums.

American Fork Canyon Abandoned Mine Land Watershed Initiative Project

Wasatch Front residents heavily use the Alpine Scenic Loop portion of American Fork Canyon in the Uinta National Forest. But as a result of mining between 1870 and the 1950s three mines in the North Fork American Fork River are listed on the EPA's hazardous waste information site. The listing followed a Utah Division of Environmental Response and Remediation report submission to the Environmental Protection Agency in 1991.

Further studies defined the extent, origin, and dispersion of potentially hazardous heavy metal concentrations. The presence of high arsenic levels led the State to issue a fish consumption advisory in 2002.

The cleanup of the Pacific Mine and Mill site, Lower Bog Mine, and Mary Ellen Gulch Mines began in May 2003 and is expected to last four years. The work involves developing an on-site repository to accept smelter and tailings wastes. Four additional sites on NFS lands pose potential threats to human health and welfare – Dutchman Flat mill site, Bay State and Wild Dutchman mines, and Sultana smelter.



Drainage from the Pacific Mine. The presence of high arsenic levels along the river led the State to issue a fish consumption advisory in 2002.

The Pacific Mine mill site leaches metals into the American Fork River drainage.

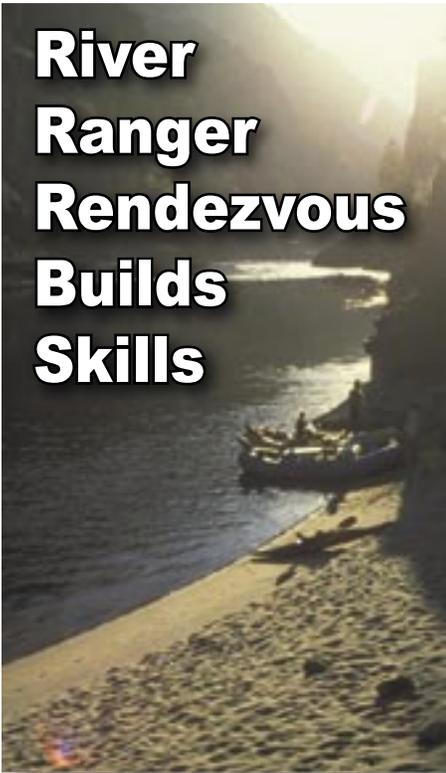


VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS

Work valued at more than \$505 million was completed by 1.2 million participants in the Volunteers program in the 25 years following passage of the Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972.

River Ranger Rendezvous Builds Skills



Visitors enjoying their time on the river.

River Rangers are frequently the first and only land management agency representatives that river users see. The Bridger-Teton National Forest and the Northwest Chapter of the River Management Society (RMS) held a River Ranger Rendezvous near Jackson, WY in May to boost river ranger skills and knowledge.

Twenty-nine people attended the three-day session near Jackson. Participants from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and various state parks came from as far away as Grand Canyon National Park and Glenallen, Alaska.

Interpersonal communications, including active listening, dealing with difficult people, and resolving conflict were skills

studied and practiced. Image enhancement—another form of interpersonal communication--focused on the appearance of the boat, launch facilities, and the river ranger.

Special use permits and their associated issues and problems were studied from the Forest Service and BLM perspective. Other knowledge-building and awareness topics included law enforcement, and noxious weeds. Leave No Trace issues and possible solutions were explored. A boat trip on the Snake River and a discussion of current agency management closed the event.

River rangers and managers appreciated networking and learning from the experiences of their peers. Look for a similar event in the Idaho Panhandle this spring.

The Northwest Chapter of the River Management Society includes the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana.

Costs of the event were kept low by the generosity of the Great Salt Lake Council, Boy Scouts of America. The scouts provided their facilities at Teton High Adventure Base. Logistic and planning information about the event are available from Bunny Sterin at bsterin@fs.fed.us.

Bunny Sterin, Natural Resource Specialist/ WYDOT Liaison
Bridger-Teton National Forest



Boaters prepare to launch.



Champion Big Trees Found in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area

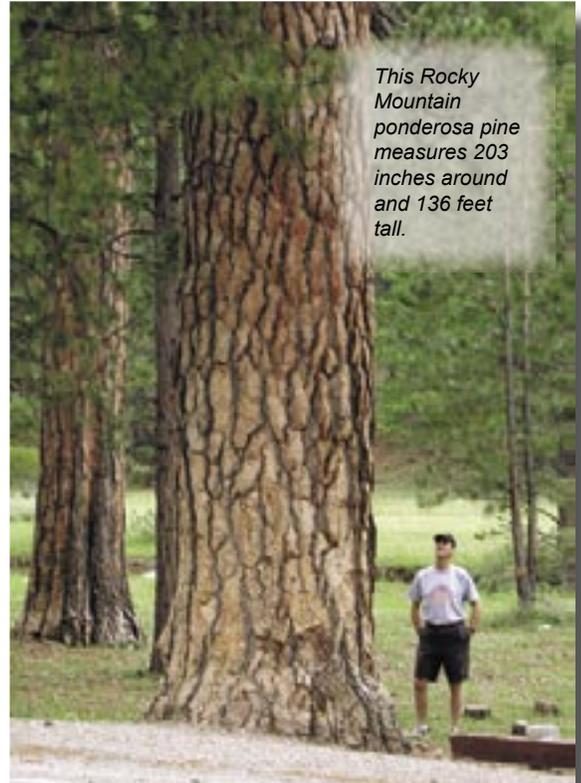
The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (Spring Mountains NRA), is home to Nevada's newest champion "Big Trees."

The Nevada Division of Forestry, Big Tree Program recently designated a Rocky Mountain ponderosa pine, and a Rocky Mountain white fir in the Mt Charleston area as state champions. A Great Basin bristlecone pine also in the Mt Charleston area was designated state and national champion. "These trees stand in the shadow of Las Vegas as symbols of tenacity in a landscape both severe and isolated," said wildlife biologist Heather Hundt, Acting Resource Manager for the Spring Mountains NRA.

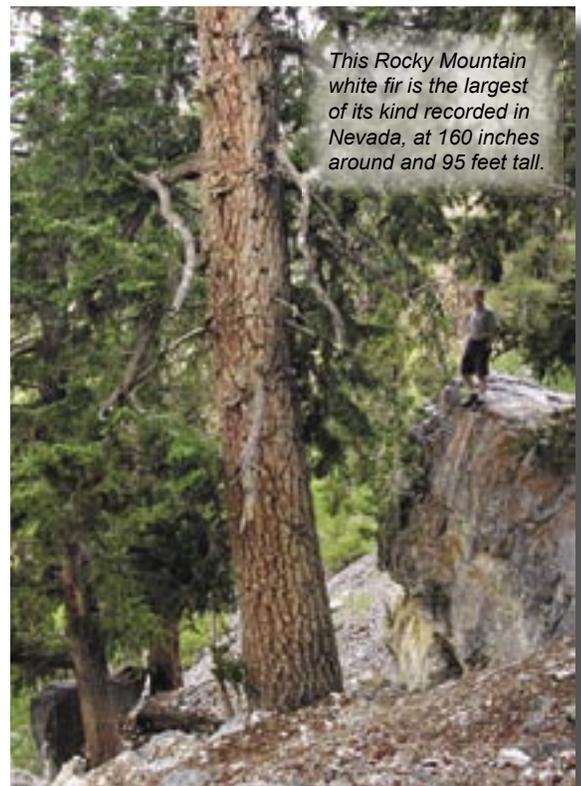
Nevada's Big Tree program honors the largest reported urban and rural tree specimens of each species or variety growing in Nevada. The NDF program increases awareness of Nevada's forests and trees while stirring interest in preserving our living landmarks.

What constitutes a Big Tree Champion? A tree's height, circumference, and one-quarter of its average crown spread are factored determining champion big tree status. The new state and national champion Bristlecone pine has a circumference of 455 inches and a measured height of 52 feet. Robert Van Pelt, Professor of Forestry, University of Washington and his brother, Bruce Van Pelt, nominated all three trees.

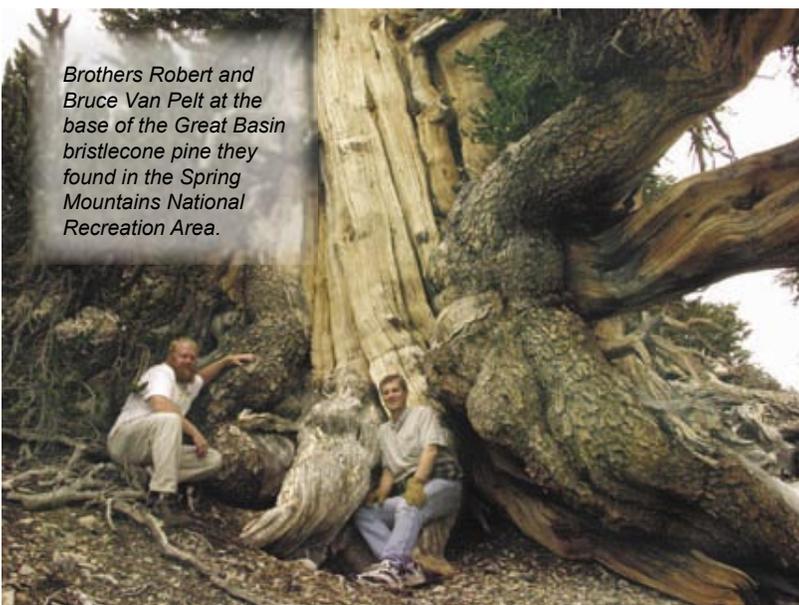
Submitted by Victoria Shaffer
Public Affairs Specialist
Spring Mountains NRA



This Rocky Mountain ponderosa pine measures 203 inches around and 136 feet tall.



This Rocky Mountain white fir is the largest of its kind recorded in Nevada, at 160 inches around and 95 feet tall.



Brothers Robert and Bruce Van Pelt at the base of the Great Basin bristlecone pine they found in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area.

Heroes Among Us!

Thankful for the Heroes Among Us!

When the Iraq War began, many of us had no idea how many people we knew would be affected. The war didn't quite seem real to many of us. But the war was very close to home for those with neighbors, friends, office mates, spouses, sons and daughters protecting our freedom.

Employees of the Intermountain Region paid tribute to those serving and their families by establishing a display in the Regional Office. The display on the fifth floor of the Federal Building in Ogden provided a place for many to pay tribute to the selflessness of these families. Viewing the display brought patriotism and National pride to many, some shed tears, shared hope, and offered silent prayers for the hero's safe return.

While most of those listed have come home or returned to their home base, others are serving tours overseas or continue in harms way. Several "Heroes Among Us" are listed below.

★ **JIMMY ARROYAVE**, United States Marine Corps, Cousin's husband of Kim Hofeldt, Sawtooth NF, Deployed to Kuwait October 22, 2002. Last Update – Arrived safely home June 22, 2003.

★ **DAN AUSTIN**, Special Agent, Office of Special Investigations, United States Air Force, Son of Doug Austin, RO VM staff. Activated November 2001 to Washington, DC.

★ **JOSH BEATY**, United States Army, 82nd Airborne, Son of Cathy Beaty, Deputy Regional Forester for Administration. Deployed January - June 2003 to Afghanistan. Re-deployed - January 2004 to Iraq.

★ **JOHN BERNAL, JR.**, Sergeant-86th Signal, United States Army, Son of Ruby Bernal, Boise NF. Deployed to Kuwait February 14, 2003. Last Update - Arrived safely home September 1, 2003.

★ **SCOTT BLAKE**, Utah National Guard, 222nd Field Artillery Unit, Employee, Richfield RD, Fishlake NF. Activated March 18, 2003.

★ **ANDREA JUNE BOYD**, Airman First Class, United States Air Force, Cousin of Lisa Rice, RO Financial Resources staff. Enlisted September 2000, serving with her husband at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

★ **BRAD BOYD**, Master Sergeant, United States Air Force, Cousin of Lisa Rice, RO Financial Resources staff. Enlisted December 1998, serving at Elmendorf AFB in Alaska with his wife.

★ **BRIAN CHRISTENSEN**, Utah National Guard, 222nd Field Artillery Unit, Employee, Richfield RD, Fishlake NF. Activated March 18, 2003.

★ **LYN CHRISTENSEN**, Utah National Guard, 222nd Field Artillery Unit, Employee, Richfield RD, Fishlake NF. Activated March 18, 2003.

★ **WILLIAM T. CIVISH**, 1st Lieutenant, Utah National Guard, Employee of the Vernal RD, Ashley NF. Activated February 2003.

★ **NATHAN FATHEREE**, Utah National Guard, Vernal Unit, Employee of the Ashley NF. Deployed February 2003.

★ **KIM GILBERT**, Army Reserves, Employee, Boise NF. Activated January 26, 2003. Last Update - Arrived safely home September 27, 2003.

★ **PENELOPE HANCOCK SIMKINS**, United States Army Reserves, Daughter of Valdon Hancock, Sawtooth NF. Proudly served: 1989-1997.

★ **MATTHEW L. HANCOCK**, United States Army, Son of Valdon Hancock, Sawtooth NF. Veteran of Desert Storm, proudly served 1989-2000.

★ **NATHAN E. HANCOCK**, United States Army, 16th Engineering Battalion, Son of Valdon Hancock, Sawtooth NF. Last Update: Serving in Baghdad.

★ **RYAN M. HYSELL**, Nevada Air National Guard, 152nd Airlift Wing, 152nd Aircraft Generation Squadron, Son of Jon Haugh, Assistant District Ranger, Middle Fork RD, Salmon-Challis NF. Activated March 2003.

★ **DARIN IVIE**, Utah National Guard, 222nd Field Artillery Unit, Employee, Richfield RD, Fishlake NF. Activated March 18, 2003.

★ **DELBERT JAY**, 19th Special Forces Airborne Group. Company B, Uinta NF, employee 1979-2000, currently the Utah County Fire Warden. Deployed April - September 2002 to Central Asia and Eastern Afghanistan.

★ **GLENN JOHNSON**, Captain, United States Army, 5th Special Forces Group, Son of Curt Johnson, RO VM staff. Deployed to Masirah, Oman, December 7, 2001. Received the Bronze Star in Afghanistan 2002, Served during war in Iraq. Last Update - Serving in Albuquerque, NM.

★ **EVAN JOHNSON**, 2nd Lieutenant, United States Army, Son of Curt Johnson, RO VM staff. Last Update - Serving in Fort Benning, GA.

★ **SCOTT A. JOHNSON**, Private E3, United States Army, Special A Battery, Nephew of Susan Rush, RO & SPF staff. Last Update – Serving in Minsch, Germany.

★ **FRED KAMINSKI**, United States Army, Special Forces Unit, Employee - Fire Planner for the Ashley & Manti LaSal NF's. Deployed overseas scheduled March 30, 2003.

★ **JAMES E. KECK**, Staff Sergeant, United States Marine Corps, Cousin of Lisa Rice, RO Financial Resources staff. Deployed to Saudi Arabia January 2003.

★ **AARON J. KENNEDY**, United States Air Force, Son-In-Law to Marcia Fryer, RO Lands Staff. Deployed January 8, 2003 to Saudi Arabia. Last Update - Arrived safely home in June 2003.

★ **TODD F. MARCO**, United States Air Force, Son of June Genf, RO Stewardship Support. Deployed to Saudi Arabia (October 1990- March 1991). Last Update - serving as the Chief of Logistics, Mobility and Squadron Training NCO & Unit Deployment Manager for the 84th Radar Evaluation Squadron.

★ **BRIAN B. MONROE**, Utah Army National Guard, Employee, Rangeland Management Specialist Vernal RD, Ashley NF. Activated July 2002 to Tooele Army Depot.

★ **KEVIN MOYA-MCKAY**, Petty Officer, United States Corpsman, with Marines, Son of Margie McKay, Carson RD. Deployed to Kuwait February 2003. Last Update - Arrived safely home September 1, 2003.

★ **JOSEPH and LORENA PECK**, United States Army, Brother & Sister-in-law of Donna Leuzinger, Middle Fork RD, & Barbara Andrews, Challis RD. Deployed 2002 to Kuwait. Last Update - Joseph arrived safely home September 2003, & Lorena arrived safely home July 2003.

★ **CASEY PULLMAN**, PM2, Personnel Services, United States Navy, Son of Tom Scott, Wasatch-Cache NF. Stationed with combined military services reserve unit, Las Vegas, NV. Last Update – Serving in Las Vegas, NV.

★ **MICHAEL RICE**, Em 3, United States Navy, Cousin of Lisa Rice, RO Financial Resources staff. Last Update - Serving on the USS Theodore Roosevelt, Eastern Mediterranean Deployed January 2003.

★ **TYSON SAMPSON**, United States Marine, Ogden Federal Building Security Officer. Deployed March 2003 to Kuwait - arrived safely home in June 2003. Last Update – Still on active duty reporting to Camp Williams, Utah.

★ **RALPH SMITH**, Utah National Guard 222nd Field Artillery Unit, Employee, Richfield RD, Fishlake NF. Activated March 18, 2003.

★ **CRAIG R. SOLEM**, United States Navy, Brother to Steve Solem, RO PAL staff & Brother-in-law to Jane Solem RO IS&T staff. Serving as Commanding Officer for the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

★ **NATHAN TUCKER**, Aviation Structural Mechanic, United States Navy, attached to USS Kitty Hawk, Son of Jonathan & Janette Tucker, Jon is retired from the Wasatch-Cache NF, Janette is in the RO FAA staff. Deployed to Gulf February 2003. Last Update - Arrived back to home unit in Japan, June 2003.

★ **JONNIE VALDEZ**, United States Army, Recently retired RO Engineering employee, Deployed to active duty February 2003. Last Update - Arrived safely home June 2003.

★ **KYLE VOIT**, Senior Airman, United States Air Force, Son of Irene Voit (formerly RMRS Library) currently Pacific Southwest Library & Information Center. Last Update - Serving at Hurburt Field, Florida.

★ **JESSIE J. WILLIAMS**, United States Navy, Son of Shawna Williams, Dubois RD. Deployed July 2002 to the Gulf aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln. Last Update - Arrived safely home July 2003.

★ **JARED WOODS**, United States Army, Son of Sheila Woods, Salmon-Challis NF. Deployed to Iraq March 2003 – June 2003. Last Update - Serving in Germany.

We thank these soldiers and their families for the service they provide.

Janet Thorsted
Regional Office

Backcountry Horsemen Repair Lewis and Clark Trail

The Salmon River Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen maintained 75 miles of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in the North Fork (ID) vicinity (Salmon-Challis NF). The work took several weekends in May. The 24 volunteers brushed, marked, and relocated a portion of the trail out of a riparian area. They even found a “forgotten” portion of the trail and made it useable. The Lewis and Clark trail work was in the Wagonhammer area.

Dr. Richard Smith is the group’s public lands liaison and was responsible for coordination of the Wagonhammer project, which included work in addition to that on the Lewis and Clark Trail. “Our organization is dedicated to preserving the historical use of recreational stock in the backcountry,” said Smith. “Throughout the United States, Backcountry Horsemen spend countless hours working on trails for public agencies. In many cases, it is the only way to keep trails open.”

The Salmon chapter has been interested in the Wagonhammer to Trail Gulch trail for many years. The group secured a grant for a Wagonhammer trailhead restroom, and the volunteer work was a non-cash match for that grant. The Forest Service will install the restroom and make other minor improvements next spring. The design will include adequate turning space for vehicles with trailers, new hitching rails, and a new trailhead sign.

“We really enjoy projects of this kind, where we are able to directly benefit and to give something in return,” said Smith. According to recreation manager Ken Stauffer, “The 75 miles of work in and around Wagonhammer will help the Salmon-Challis National Forest meet its annual trail maintenance target. Their work is invaluable - we can’t thank them enough!”

In addition to the Lewis & Clark Trail, the group has agreed to assist with projects on the Leadore, Salmon-Cobalt, and North Fork Ranger Districts.

Trails will remain the bulk of their efforts, with the Chapter maintaining several sections of the Continental Divide trail. They also plan to pack supplies for a Student Conservation crew and deliver water for remote weed spraying.

The local Backcountry Horseman chapter celebrated its 25th birthday last summer.

Melanie B. Fullman
Project Mgr., Recreation
Solutions Enterprise Team
Partnership Coordinator, SC NF

Backcountry Horsemen volunteers inspect their hard work; note old trail in drainage bottom below. (photo by Jenny Smith)



Everyone Wins with Eagle Projects

“Everyone wins with an Eagle Scout project – the public, the Forest, and the scout,” says Bevan Killpack, Dixie National Forest District Ranger.

Killpack continues, “Fred Ybright, Pine Valley Mountain Ranger District Wilderness Coordinator, has been able to help scouts plan and complete a lot of projects very useful to the Forest. These are things that will benefit the public for years as well as help the young scout achieve one of his life objectives.”

The long-range impact of the Eagle Scout projects can be clearly seen in the unusual and valuable Equestrian campground in the Pine Valley Recreation Area. Through the efforts primarily of the Scouts and the Back Country Horsemen, 11 corrals have been erected adjacent to individual campsites. This arrangement allows campers with horses to keep their animals near their campsites. This arrangement of corrals would have been impossible to construct without this volunteer effort.

As of the middle of August 2003, Ybright had nine Eagle Scout projects underway on the Pine Valley Ranger District. Fortunately for the scouts and the Forest, he patiently helps the young men plan their projects and coaches them to satisfactory completion. “I’ve got more ideas for future projects for the next young men looking for a project to earn that Eagle rank,” Ybright says. “Check back with the District in a year or so, and you will be impressed at all the other things the scouts have accomplished,” he adds.

For further information contact:
fybright@fs.fed.us, or call (435) 652-3124.

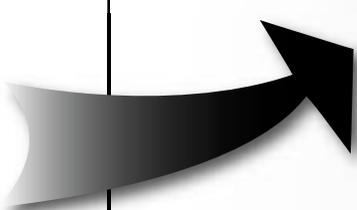


The team assembled for an Eagle Scout project on the Pine Valley District of the Dixie National Forest with the Agency Coordinator Fred Ybright.



Individual corrals such as this have been constructed as Eagle Scout projects in the Equestrian Campground on the Pine Valley Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest.

SOME OF THE PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED

- 
- ▶ Rebuilding and marking trails
 - ▶ Building individual horse corrals at an equestrian campground
 - ▶ Building and installing extra-sturdy picnic tables
 - ▶ Building and rebuilding campsites
 - ▶ Building benches at a campfire site
 - ▶ Preparing an exhibit identifying historical dates on tree rings

Indigenous Seed Programs a Success at Alta and Brighton



Wildflowers are a major late-summer attraction at Alta and Brighton ski areas in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest near Salt Lake City. Photographers, naturalists and others are drawn to the site, as evidenced by the hundreds of sources an Internet search on Alta's "Albion Basin" brings up. But Mother Nature has a helping hand with her blossoms. Managers at Alta and Brighton are committed to the environment and revegetate their slopes with seeds gathered from their own area.

Collecting seeds from the mountain, drying them, and sowing them back onto the mountain is tedious and time consuming. But Assistant Ski Patrol Director Mark Pollish spearheaded that project at Alta in the mid-1990s. "We want to provide people with a quality ski experience, and we are also stewards of the land," says Pollish.

Forest Service staff members applaud the seed gathering and sowing program for its creativity and sensibility. "For 10 years Alta has been the leader in restoring vegetation," says Forest Ecologist Wayne Padgett. "We're very excited with the results Alta has had with indigenous seed and Alta's interest in doing it. They are decades ahead of others in implementing such a program."

Alta and Brighton are located in culinary watersheds, so mitigating erosion has always been a primary focus. Another focus is maintaining the high mountain scenic values, calling for reseeded areas to blend with the landscape.

Commercial mixes of wildflowers, forbs and grasses – just like those at Alta and Brighton but harvested elsewhere – can be inadequate for the 9000-foot elevation areas' soil, water, and weather conditions. Dr. Ray Brown, before retiring from the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, recommended enriching commercial mixes with seeds gathered on site because those plants were adapted to the climate. Seed mixes were customized to each mountain's conditions, and

invasive species were eliminated. Seeds of some species were made sterile to provide quick coverage, while eliminating their chance of becoming troublesome.

Steve Scheid, environmental coordinator and winter sports program manager for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest said, "When we started moving toward indigenous seeds, some believed they wouldn't take hold fast enough. But Alta has had great success and is committed to doing the right thing."

"Alta is a wildflower mecca and is the leader in this," says Al Soucie, natural resource recreation manager. "It is important for us to get the other resorts to move that direction."

And Brighton has.

Brighton's four-year-old program followed Alta's lead by taking lessons from Mark Pollish on how to gather, dry, and utilize indigenous seeds. Throughout the warm months at Brighton, accountant Carol Garner and ticket manager Joanne Williams identify and collect seeds for later use in revegetating areas worn by summer maintenance, construction projects, or washouts. Pollish has been providing the service at Alta for years.

As soon as the snow melts at Brighton, Garner and Williams locate red, blue, white, yellow, and pink beds of wildflowers, consisting of columbine, sticky geranium, flax, pussy toes, lupine and a dozen more plants. They also search for flowers mentioned in historic documents describing the area. Plants are monitored throughout the summer, and seeds are gathered the moment they are prime by mechanical or hand picking methods.

"When I pick seeds by hand, I tie five or six pillowcases to my belt so I can sort the seeds. I look pretty silly with the pillowcases all flapping in the wind," says Garner.

Most seeds are air dried on newspaper: in a conference room at Brighton, and on cafeteria tables in Alf's Restaurant at Alta. Because some plants forcibly eject their seeds as they dry, they are put in paper bags to catch the seeds. The seeds are planted before it snows using a variety of sowing techniques: scattering seeds up-wind, raking them into the soil, or covering them with a biodegradable blanket. Some are reserved for the following year.

Pollish warns, "Many people mistakenly think we're picking flowers when we collect the seed. Picking flowers on National Forest System lands is illegal."



Alta's Assistant Ski Patrol Director Mark Polish with a bucket of seeds he gathered by hand on Alta last year. (photo by Harriet Wallis)

When settlers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley about 150 years ago, they surged up Little and Big Cottonwood Canyons to cut timber for homes and silver mine supports. Also, their cattle and sheep grazed the lush mountain meadows. With the trees chopped down and the grass eaten away by livestock, the denuded hillsides were slide prone into the mid 1900s. "In some places not a blade of grass could be found," says Brighton Area Manager Randy Doyle of the old days. "People think the trees, flowers and grass were always here. But they weren't."

At Alta, extensive tree planting began in the 1930s when founder Alf Engen worked with the Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps.

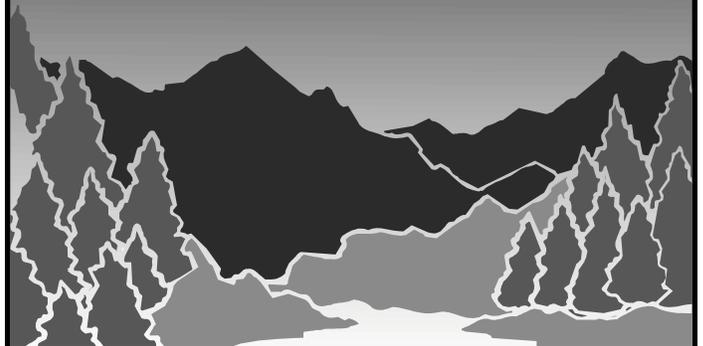
The indigenous wildflower programs at Alta and Brighton ski areas contribute significantly to their spectacular scenic beauty.

Harriet Wallis

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 provided that –

“...certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

There were eight Wild and Scenic Rivers designated under the original Act, including the Middle Fork of the Salmon River; and the Middle Fork Clearwater River including parts of the Lochsa and Selway Rivers in Idaho.



New “Leave No Trace” Coordinator

Fred Ybright, Dixie National Forest Wilderness Coordinator, accepted the position of Leave No Trace (LNT) coordinator for the Intermountain Region in September. Fred will be working with individuals on each forest and other regional LNT coordinators to encourage course participation, publicize programs, and pass on his enthusiasm.

Fred has been the Pine Valley Ranger District’s Wilderness Coordinator since 1992, and gives about 30 presentations a year to various groups—most on Leave No Trace Camping.

Regional Wilderness specialist Randy Welsh said “Fred has been a particularly articulate advocate of the principles

of ‘Leave No Trace Camping’ for many years.”

One of Fred’s presentations regarding LNT is “Spirit of the Mountain.” When he holds the presentation at the Pine Valley Amphitheater he arrives on horseback dressed as a mountain man.

Ybright explains that he picked the 1800s persona because the mountain man had to leave no trace in order to survive in the wilderness. Today, he says, we must all practice no trace camping if the Wilderness is to survive.

“The more people practice Leave No Trace, the longer the outdoors will exist in a beautiful way for your grandchildren and my grandchildren to enjoy,” is one of the messages Fred leaves his daily contacts, as well as his audiences. “The mountains are resilient; they will be there for a long time,” he continues. “Their condition is dependent on us—they will be beautiful or trashed.”

Fred organized the Leave No Trace booth for the annual Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation conference in Reno. “This is a tremendous opportunity to reach as many as 10,000 potential campers,” he said.

Fred is fulfilling his regional Leave No Trace Coordinator duties while continuing to work for the Pine Valley Ranger District. Those interested in contacting Fred regarding Wilderness, Leave No Trace camping, or presentations can reach him at ybright@fs.fed.us or by mail at the Pine Valley District of the Dixie National Forest, 196 East Tabernacle, St. George, UT 84770.



Fred Ybright appearing as a mountain man for his “Spirit of the Mountain” Leave No Trace presentation.



Volunteers help the Intermountain Region care for the land and serve people by providing skill, labor and services. In 2003, the last year for which region-wide numbers are available, volunteers contributed 166 person-years of work, valued at \$3.9 million.

What kind of work did volunteers perform? Much of the \$3.9 million was in recreation, but heritage, wildlife, and range received work valued in the six-figure range.

But numbers alone do not tell the whole story. The feeling in volunteers of having made a difference, and the benefits to those that follow cannot be measured well. Perhaps Bevan Killpack, Pine Valley District Ranger, comes closest to expressing the value of volunteer work. Referring to his district's Eagle Scout projects, he says, "Everyone wins with an Eagle project—the public, the Forest Service, and the Scout." He continues, "These are things that will benefit the public for years, as well as help the young Scout achieve one of his life objectives."

Volunteers have come from as far away as Maine, Alaska, and Florida, and as close as the

Volunteers to the Rescue



The "Hills Angels" jeep club helped identify the core roads on the Humboldt-Toiyabe.

local community. Groups who have volunteered in the region include: Boy Scouts, Back Country Horsemen, Escalante Valley Wildlife Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources "Dedicated Hunters," the Arizona Strip Interpretive Association, Sun Hawk Academy, LDS Youth Camp, church groups, Manila High School students, Weber County Community Service Crews, off highway vehicle clubs, Future Farmers of America, individuals, and others not listed.

Thank you for the work you provide.

SOME OF THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY VOLUNTEERS LAST CALENDAR YEAR INCLUDE

- ▶ Writing several stories appearing in this issue of the Intermountain Reporter
- ▶ Rebuilding and marking trails
- ▶ Building horse corrals, hitching posts, and restrooms
- ▶ Building and installing picnic tables
- ▶ Building and rebuilding campsites
- ▶ Building benches
- ▶ Creating an exhibit with increment-bored tree trunk core samples, identifying tree age and marking the growth rings with historical dates
- ▶ Conducting fisheries surveys
- ▶ Constructing guzzlers—structures that capture precipitation and funnel it into storage tanks to be provided as drinking water through the year for wildlife and livestock, or until the tanks are dry.
- ▶ Collecting indigenous flower seeds
- ▶ Treating noxious weeds
- ▶ General cleaning including burning of discarded fence posts, removing non-used water troughs, and picking up trash along river banks
- ▶ Installing accessibility ramps
- ▶ Monitoring mine rehabilitation
- ▶ Identifying, photographing and collecting native plants
- ▶ Environmental education
- ▶ Staffing information desks
- ▶ Illustrating brochures



Volunteers removed Salmon River trash.

Consolidated Awards

Boise National Forest

● **DAVE HALE**, Emmett Ranger District supervisory forester, received the 2003 “Orchid for Contribution to Historic Preservation” on behalf of the Emmett Ranger District. Hale, Deadwood Lookout Restoration project leader, accepted the Idaho Historic Preservation Council award for work on the historically significant building. Today the lookout is part of the Boise National Forest cabin rental program, and is heavily booked throughout the summer.



Outside the restored Deadwood Lookout.

Inside the restored Deadwood Lookout, now part of the Boise National Forest cabin rental program.



● The Chief’s Award for Technology Transfer was presented in 2003 to Boise National Forest Engineering Equipment Operator Foreman **JERRY FIRTH**, and San Dimas Technology and Development Center (SDTDC) Engineering Program Leader **ALAN YAMADA** and SDTDC Engineering Project Leader **ANTHONY EDWARDS**. The group produced a video series about maintaining forest roads while lessening the adverse impacts on watersheds, fish, and other aquatic organisms. Safer roads and reduced maintenance costs are additional benefits being reaped. The audience for the video series is contractor and county road maintenance crews, as well as other federal agencies.

Chief Dale Bosworth presents the Technology Transfer award to Alan Yamada, Tony Edwards and Jerry Firth.



● Ken Waugh, formerly of the Boise National Forest, received the Gifford Pinchot Excellence in Interpretation and Conservation Education Award at the November National Interpreters Workshop in Sparks, NV. Waugh was one of recipients of the newly combined award, being recognized for his leadership in designing quality interpretive exhibits and brochures that encourage off-highway vehicle

users to respect other recreation users. He has since transferred to the White River National Forest in Colorado.

● Five employees from the Emmett and Idaho City Ranger Districts received awards from an external group June 10th in Washington, D.C. The Coalition for Recreation Trails presented awards for coordinating an environmentally sensitive trailhead project, and using volunteers and a youth crew to reconstruct a trail. The two projects were developed with funds from Recreational Trails Program grants, administered by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.

- Coordinators Dave Hale and Ann Niesen received the Environment and Wildlife Compatibility and the Use of Youth Service Corps Awards for the Peace Creek trailhead project on the Emmett Ranger District. Work included building a trail bridge, information kiosk, loading ramp, accessible restrooms, and improving fish habitat. Closing and rehabilitating two illegal user-created creek fords was also completed. The coordinators received the assistance of the Back Country Horsemen (Squaw Butte and Boise Chapters), Boy Scout Troop 185, and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.

- North Fork Boise River Trail Project coordinators **JEFF SCHRAMM** and **BRANT PETERSEN**, and Idaho City District Ranger **DICK MARKLEY** received

the Use of Youth Service Corps Award. The project repaired and reconstructed wildfire and water runoff trail damage. A Northwest Youth Corps crew assisted with building new trail tread by filling in talus and rocky sections with small rocks resulting from engineers blasting large boulders from the trail. The crewmembers also built a rock retaining wall, helped clear 100 trees from the trail, and installed 13 trailhead and trail junction signs. Additional partners were the Idaho Conservation League, several Boy Scout troops from the Ore-Ida Council, and several individual volunteers.

● The **EMMETT RANGER DISTRICT** received the 2003 Elk Country Achievement Award for Wildlife Habitat Management at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation National Convention in Reno, Nevada. The Foundation recognized the District for enhancing elk habitat by implementing a comprehensive, broad-scale, and multi-year prescribed fire program on elk winter range. The sculptured bronze elk award will be passed to the next recipient of the award in 2004.

Fishlake National Forest

● Richfield and Loa Ranger District wildlife biologist **KREIG RASMUSSEN** received the Regional Scott Feltis Award from biophysical resources director Bill LeVere. The award recognizes his work forming productive relationships with internal and external groups to gain support for wildlife habitat conservation. Rasmussen has worked with partners to enhance mule deer, antelope, elk and sage grouse habitats.

Kreig Rasmussen (left) receives the Scott Feltis Award from Biophysical Resources Director Bill LeVere.



Payette National Forest

STEPHEN E. PATTERSON, silviculturist on the Payette National Forest, received the Presidential Field Forester Award at the 2003 Society of American Foresters national convention in August. Patterson teaches reforestation courses for the Intermountain Region and is the regional certification representative for Nevada, Utah, and central and southern Idaho. The award recognizes foresters who have dedicated their professional careers to

applying on-the-ground forestry using sound scientific methods and adaptive management strategies.

In September 2003 **MARY FAUROT** and **ERIN GRINDE** received the Rise to the Future Award from Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth in Washington D.C. Krassel Ranger District fisheries biologist Faurot and student Grinde were recognized for their work in the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program, an American Fisheries Society mentorship program. The Rise to the Future Award recognizes exceptional contributions to fisheries resource management. An article featuring Faurot and Grinde's work is in the Fall 2002 Intermountain Reporter.

Mary Faurot and Erin Grinde conducting stream surveys on the Payette National Forest.



Uinta National Forest

● National Volunteer Program Awards were presented to **BOB EASTON, BRIAN EASTMAN, JIM PRICE**, the **UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES DEDICATED HUNTERS**, and the **WASATCH HIGH SCHOOL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA**.

• Retired Pleasant Grove District Ranger **BOB EASTON** received the Chief's Volunteer of the Year award for fostering a program over the past 15 years that resulted in 89,000 volunteers donating 772,345 hours of service.

• **BRIAN EASTMAN**, of the BYU Grounds Department, assisted the Forest by reducing watershed damage on the Y Mountain Trail above Provo for the past eight years.

• **JAMES E. PRICE**, Trails System Planner for Mountainlands Association of Governments was recognized for coordinating trail construction projects which link city, state, and federal lands within the Utah counties of Juab, Wasatch and Utah.

• **THE UTAH'S DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES' DEDICATED HUNTER PROGRAM** was recognized for exemplary service in providing over 1600 volunteers and more than 13,000 hours of service since its beginning in 1997. Projects completed by the hunters include fenc-

ing; seeding, planting, and watering; and constructing parking lots, pathways and retaining walls.

• **THE WASATCH HIGH SCHOOL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA (FFA)** received recognition for exemplary service for developing educational activities and games for youth attending the annual Strawberry Wildlife Festival.

Regional Office

● **CURT JOHNSON**, range management specialist in the Vegetation Management staff, received the Range Manager of the Year Award by the Utah Section, Society for Range Management. In 2003 Johnson co-authored with Rocky Mountain Research Station rangeland scientists "Indicators of Rangeland Health and Functionality in the Intermountain West." The publication incorporated much of the knowledge Johnson gained during his 20 years in the Inter-

mountain Region. His accomplishments have included revising the Intermountain Region "Handbook on Analysis and Monitoring," now a model used by the western regions of the Forest Service; Developing an interagency technical reference entitled "Sampling Vegetation Attributes" used by the NRCS, Cooperative Extension Service, the BLM and the Forest Service. Johnson currently provides leadership in noxious weed management.



Utah Section Society for Range Management (SRM) President Art Tate (left) presented the Range Management of the Year Award to Curt Johnson. To the right of Johnson is Utah Section SRM President-elect Kurt Robbins and Dixie/Fishlake National Forest Range Staff Dave Grider. Robbins is the Range Management Specialist on the Loa/Teasdale Ranger Districts of the Dixie National Forest.

Aviation Safety Alerts are established on an as needed basis, and are paramount to safe aviation operations. The alerts include information such as how to keep the helicopter water bucket leadline out of the main rotor during operations. Annually, the National and Regional Aviation safety managers review the previous year's Aviation Safety Alerts to determine if the alerts have been absorbed into policy and procedures. If not, the alerts remain in effect. The Intermountain Region has four Aviation Safety Alerts that were carried forward. They can be viewed at http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/av_safety/index.html by clicking on "Safety Alerts" and then click on the Safety Alert you want to review. Please share these alerts at your next safety briefing! Bookmarking the site will give you ready access to the page contents in the future.

*Jim Morrison
Region 4 Aviation Safety Manager*

MULE DEER FOUNDATION ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Mule Deer Foundation held their 4th annual national convention February 13-15, 2004 in Reno, NV. Approximately 3,500 hunters and conservationists visited the convention's exhibit hall that included wildlife art, seminars, as well as clothing and equipment for hunting and other outdoor sports. Several Forest Service employees attended the convention.

This year the Mule Deer Conservation Award was presented to a Forest Service Region recognized as having contributed the most to the conservation of mule deer and mule deer habitat. The Intermountain Region received the award this year for improving

habitat utilizing a "Dixie Harrow" on the Fishlake National Forest. Kreig Rasmussen, wildlife biologist on the Fishlake National Forest, accepted the award.

A Mule Deer Working Group, chartered by International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, met for two days at the convention to discuss issues regarding the continued decline of mule deer.

The 5th Annual Mule Deer Convention and Exposition will take place January 14-16, 2005, at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center in Reno.

The nonprofit Mule Deer Foundation (MDF), founded in 1988, is a conservation organi-



Left to right, Robert Vaught, Humboldt/Toiyabe Forest Supervisor, Bill Burbridge, Mule Deer Foundation Board of Directors, and Kreig Rasmussen, Fishlake National Forest.

zation with more than 10,000 members. The organization is committed to ensuring the conservation of mule deer and blacktail deer and their habitats. Since 2002 the MDF has partnered with the Forest Service and other federal, state, and private partners to contribute nearly \$900,000 to projects in Utah and Nevada alone.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

"Over the years we have slipped a little in the degree to which we provide responsive service to all our publics, and that includes our co-workers as well. That's understandable, what with all the activities we are now engaged in. At the same time the public has become less willing to accept anything but first class service. To tackle this problem we have developed the HOST Program to improve our service."

R. Max Peterson
11th Chief of the Forest Service
February 1980

New Employee Assistance Program Coordinator for Region

Steven W. Dickerson is the Region's Employee Assistance Program Coordinator in Civil Rights. Sonnet House formerly held the program coordinator position. Steven was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and his friends affectionately know him as "Bear."

Although new to the Forest Service, he brings with him years of government employment and specialized training.

While serving as an aviation mechanic in an AV8 Harrier Squadron of the US Marine Corps, Steven was involved in an aviation accident where he sustained injuries to his eyes that left him legally blind.

After attending The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Blind Rehabilitation School in West Haven, Connecticut he returned to college where he earned an undergraduate degree in Paralegal-Studies from The University of Maryland. Steven later attended the VA's blind rehabilitation schools in Hines, Illinois, and Palo Alto, California for advance access technology training. Steven has had civil service employment with the US Department of The Navy as a support paralegal in a law office providing direct legal support for



Steven W. Dickerson, Regional Employee Assistance Program Coordinator, is ready to serve and the communication lines are open.

the employment relations attorneys, and with the US Department of Veterans Affairs as a Veterans Benefits Counselor and Contact Representative. Steven's relocation to Ogden, Utah comes after living in Reno, Nevada for the past 11 years when he moved from the Washington, DC area to reap the benefits of the low humidity.

After an unsuccessful attempt at living the life of a semi retiree at the ripe age of 40 Steven returned to work and school pursuing his passions:

- Promoting disability awareness
- Improving work place harmony and environments between employers and employees with disabilities
- Providing mediation services pursuant to the provisions provided under the Americans With Disabilities Act, of 1990 (ADA).

Steven has been active in promoting disability awareness and independence for nearly 20 years, and has worked in both pre- and post-ADA environments. He received his mediation training from The Key Bridge Mediation Training Center, the mediation trainers for the Department of Justice, and has also collaborated on in-depth studies regarding the impact of systems theory on issues relating to employment, and the connection of positive or negative employment on social functioning. Steven has a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Nevada Reno.

Steven says, "I am extremely excited to be joining the Intermountain Region Civil Rights Division, and look forward to putting my talents, skills, and abilities to work as your Employee Assistance Program Coordinator. In the coming weeks I will be aggressively working to acquaint myself with the operational procedures and current programs already in place. However, this is not meant to indicate that I will not be available to assist you should the need arise. I firmly believe that I am here to assist you in providing the best employee assistance services that are humanly possible, and together I am confident we will be able to properly address any situation that comes our way. My use of the word "Together" ties into my philosophy of adjoining with the individual or group to workout issues as they may arise."

"I place enormous value in working together with my co-workers and colleagues as we address overall human well-being, and the basic human needs that we each have. I also

stand firmly in my belief that total harmony in ones life will help promote positive working environments and working relationships. I welcome your input to any issue you bring to me, and always welcome your opinions. I embrace the role that empowerment and your unique perspective play in coming up with your own solutions to situations,” says Steven.

Steven asks us all to remember, “We spend most of our lives trying to develop individual levels of self control, and most of us fall short of the mark in some manner. Don’t be fooled into believing that you can control another persons actions, in the end they will elect to do what they want; all that you are is an element in the equation of choice for change. So look wisely at your own contributions. As your partner, I am always ready and willing to work with you on matters covered by the Employee Assistance Office.

“Please feel free to drop by my office in room 3006 when time permits, or contact me by phone (801-625-5295) or e-mail at swdickerson@fs.fed.us. Even if it has nothing to do with Employee Assistance Services, I welcome getting to know each of you on a professional and personal level. My door is always open.”

Showcase on Service

To: Forest Supervisor George Weldon, Ashley National Forest

George, I wanted to drop you a note about your helitack crew from Flaming Gorge. They worked for me on the South Fork Fire on the Boise National Forest for about a week. I was the type 3 operations chief and was extremely pleased with their overall performance. But what I really wanted to tell you about was their performance related to a fatal private aircraft accident that occurred near our camp and the outstanding way the crew responded to the accident.

We were camped in a meadow that used to be a landing strip and a small plane was apparently attempting to make an emergency landing in the meadow. The crew watched as the plane crashed into the hillside no more than 100 yards from their location. Their response was immediate, they gathered their crash rescue equipment, the pilot and foreman jumped in the helicopter to find the crash and the rest of the crew jumped into their truck and rushed to the site. They called me on the radio and let me know what was happening. I sent an engine towards the scene and when the helicopter found the site, they directed us in. Unfortunately when we arrived there was nothing we could do to help anyone.

I was impressed with the skill, training and response the crew displayed and am sure if the situation had been different, we would have given survivors the best of opportunities.

George, this is my 30th year fighting fire, and this crew stands out in my mind for their heroic performance on this incident. I was especially impressed with the Foreman, Dave Redman for his knowledge and caring. Too seldom do we hear when our employees do a good job, and I felt you would want to know about this.

Sincerely,

*Glen Stein
09/05/2003*

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