



**IN THIS ISSUE**

**FEATURING**



**FIREWATCH Helicopter Aids Firefighters**

With the potential ahead for one of our worst fire seasons ever, firefighters and the public have a new, innovative, high-tech friend - FIREWATCH. The bright red AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter is one of 25 that was transferred to the Forest Service from the U.S. Army after they were retired from active military service in 1996.

**Los Padres Supervisor**

Gloria Brown has worked in the Washington Office, Region 1 and 6.



**Habitat Improvement**

A prescribed burn on the Mendocino will benefit elk populations.



**Following the Smoke**

A program founded by the Forest Service and the Karuk Indigenous Basketweavers.



**About Nature**

"Kids in the Creek" program teaches students about the environment.



**Secretary's Award**

The heroic efforts of these firefighters saved thousands of homes.



**Bridge Used in Movie**

Two bridges on the Stanislaus were used in the movie "For Whom the Bell Tolls."



**Smokey Turns 60**

Smokey is travelling the country to celebrate his birthday.



**The Forest Reserves**

Pinchot and Roosevelt established 16 million acres of forest reserves.



**New Associate Regional Forester**

Vicki Jackson has worked on national forests in Region 2, 3, 9 and in the Regional Office.

**MAST Receives Secretary's Award**

The Mountain Area Safety Task Force provides an integrated and coordinated approach to address the crisis situation on the San Bernardino NF.

**2004 Women's Conference**

The third Women's Conference will be held in Sacramento on October 19-21. You can register online.

**Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers**

The award recognizes valuable efforts to assist the Forest Service in managing land for the benefit of the American public.

**RF Message**



Jack talks about the diversity of California, the Fire Hire job fair, fire potential this season and SAFETY.

**Focus on People**



"Focus" features four new Forest Supervisors, and several national and regional awards.

**Region Roundup**



Events, projects and special programs are highlighted in this look at news from around the region.

**Issues Update**



Competitive Sourcing, Career Transition Workshops, The Deep

Fire, Tribal Forest Protection Act, Urban and Community Forest Grants and much more.

**History Corner**



Features early Forest Reserves, The Forest Ranger Who Could Book,

a letter from the RF on the History project, an Immaculate Ranger's cabin and the Region's efforts during the war.

## Message from the Regional Forester

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Jack Blackwell

At a recent National Leadership Team Round Robin discussion, it really hit home to me that Region 5 is unique. The southern California forests are surrounded by an extremely diverse population of 20 million people. Recreation use in the region exceeds many other regions with 8 million people a year visiting the four southern California forests alone. We have 53 Congressional districts, nineteen of them have National Forests lands, which is greater than any other state, also more than any other region. In addition, we interact frequently with a wide range of very active and involved groups including city, county, state and tribal governments, community groups, nonprofit organizations and several major newspapers and media markets.

I've said many times that California's population needs to be reflected in the region's workforce. To that end, the recent fire hire job fairs, which targeted a more diverse and urban population, were extremely successful. We had close to 1900 applications, nearly two-thirds were from underrepresented groups in our workforce. Job offers went out to 620 of those applicants. I'm very proud of all of you who helped make this happen. It's amazing what Forest Service people can do as a team.

Of course, with these new employees comes an added responsibility for all of us to welcome them, share our knowledge, expertise and make them feel a part of our Forest Service family. I'm confident our passion for the agency and our compassion for each other will help us inspire and retain our new people. I know we will do well in this regard.

I want to talk about this fire season. Last year was one of the worst fire seasons in history and predictions are that this year could be even worse, Thanks to the National Fire Plan and the hard work by many of you, we entered the 2004 fire season with significantly increased firefighting resources compared to 2000. With these additional fully-trained firefighters and equipment we will be well-positioned to fight fires that pose a threat to people, homes and wildland areas.

Finally, and I can't stress this enough, with one of the worst predicted fire seasons ahead of us, and so many people new to the agency, I want you all to think and act SAFETY FIRST! Be careful out there.

Keep up the excellent work.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Jack".

## Focus on People

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### Contents

New Associate Regional Forester Selected  
Assistant Director of Civil Rights Selected  
Stanislaus Volunteers Receive Chief's Award  
New Director of Civil Rights  
RO Awarded for CFC Efforts  
Tina Terrell Named as Cleveland Forest Supervisor  
Following the Smoke Project Receives National Award  
Forest Product Person of the Year  
Regional Forester's Honor Award to Lake Tahoe Basin  
Laurie Tippin Selected as New Supervisor of Lassen National Forest  
Cleveland Employee Receives Regional Award  
Chief Presents National Award in California  
Gloria Brown Selected as Los Padres National Forest Supervisor  
Meet the Monitoring Council  
Regional Forester's Multicultural Accomplishment Awards and EEO/Affirmative Action Award  
Nature Watch 2003 Awards  
Honor Our Past to Build the Future  
Pacific Crest Trail Association Honors Volunteers and Partners  
Regional Forester's Special Achievement Award  
Regional Forester's Award for Heroism  
"Rise to the Future" Award  
A Regional Volunteer Network Rises from the Ashes of the October Fires  
Highway 18 Defense Group Receive Secretary's Heroism and Emergency Response Award  
Secretary's Award for Heroism and Emergency Response Goes to Mountain Area Safety Task Force  
Settlement Agreement Staff Director Named  
Ed Cole Named as Sierra Forest Supervisor  
Jeff Walter Selected Six Rivers Supervisor  
Regional Forester's Honor Award  
Cleveland National Forest Receives 2003 Taking Wing Award  
Thank-You Note to Ranger

## **New Associate Regional Forester Selected**

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Associate Regional Forester Vicki Jackson at Fire Hire meeting in the Regional Office.

Vicki Jackson has accepted the permanent position of Associate Regional Forester for Region 5. She has been detailed in this position since last year. Vicki's 27 years of supervisory experience and exemplary work will be of great value as the Region continues to make significant progress on the two settlement agreements and other critical issues.

Vicki has worked on national forests in Region 2, 3 and 9 and spent four years in the Washington Office in Information Management for Timber management and as Branch Chief for Computer Operations. This isn't her first time in Region 5, some of you may remember her excellent work in the early 1990's as she was asked to serve as Special Assistant to the WO Deputy Chief for Administration addressing critical issues involving the Consent Decree. The lawsuit was settled, due in large part to her oversight and innovative solutions. Her subsequent work as Director of Human Resources in Region 2 included successful leadership of a huge hiring effort under the National Fire Plan.

In her detail in the RO, she designed and implemented a new organizational structure to accelerate implementation of the Women's and Hispanic Settlement Agreements. She has also improved processes to address workplace environment concerns.

Vicki is a recent graduate of the USDA Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program.

## **Assistant Director of Civil Rights Selected**

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Laura Aneckstein

Laura Aneckstein will be the new Deputy Director for Civil Rights. She was previously an Equal Opportunity Specialist with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Civil Rights staff in San Francisco. She has prior Civil Rights work experience with USDA in Washington DC, and as a statistician with the U.S. Bureau of Census in D.C. Laura has a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law, is a member of the Maryland Bar, received her MPA from California State University at Hayward, and a BS in Political Economy of Natural Resources from UC Berkeley.

## Stanislaus Volunteers Receive Chief's Award



From left: Don Hansen, Program Manager, Volunteers in the National Forests; Chris Pyron, Deputy Chief Business Operations; Mark Rey, Under Secretary of Agriculture; Brent Pettey, Volunteer and President of the Board of Directors, Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers; Bob Wetzel, Stanislaus NF Wilderness Coordinator; Sally Collins, Associate Chief; Jack Blackwell, R5 Regional Forester and Chief Dale Bosworth.

The Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers (SWV) have received the 2004 National Forest Service Volunteer Award from Chief of the Forest Service Dale Bosworth for "devoting thousands of hours to the restoration and protection of Wilderness on the Stanislaus National Forest through education, example, maintenance and restoration." The award is the highest honor that can be received in recognition of volunteer efforts to assist the Forest Service in accomplishing its mission to manage National Forest System Lands for the benefit of the American public.

The prestigious award was presented to the group at a ceremony on June

24 in Arlington Virginia. "The Chief's Award is a well-deserved, high profile recognition for our dedicated wilderness volunteers. It's a tremendous benefit for the Forest, local community, and visiting public to have such highly motivated, enthusiastic, and professional individuals working together to improve recreational opportunities, and to ensure enduring wilderness values for future generations to enjoy," said Forest Supervisor Tom Quinn.

The Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteer organization, licensed as a non-profit corporation in May of 2003, has been in existence for more than a decade as a group of backpacking and equestrian volunteers. The organization is dedicated to the preservation and protection of designated wilderness areas of the Sierra Nevada through education, and by demonstrated example, to ensure that wilderness will always be available for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Under the direction of Forest Wilderness managers, the organization provides well-trained, enthusiastic, and effective volunteers to help the Forest Service achieve its goals as outlined in the 1964 Wilderness Act. The 36 members listed on the organization's roster contributed a total of 3,226 hours in 2003 (the equivalent of 12 person years, or 36 summer seasons). The SWV members served as wilderness rangers on foot, horseback mounted patrol, and ranger station front desk information personnel.

The SWV members educated visitors about "leave no trace" wilderness ethics, as well as proper backpacking techniques and equestrian use in wilderness. Additionally the SWV maintained hiking trails, restored backcountry campsites, and provided vital, current "boots on-the-ground" information on wilderness trail and weather conditions for backpackers and day hikers.

Specifically, in 2003 SWV members:

- Drafted the Wilderness Education Plan for Stanislaus NF wilderness areas.
- Designed and Conducted "Leave No Trace" training for organizational youth camps.
- Rehabilitated hundreds of wilderness campsites.
- Performed light to moderate trail maintenance on more than 50 miles of hiking trails.
- Provided summer season wilderness information at Summit Ranger Station front desk.
- Staffed wilderness information displays at trailheads, local county fairs, and local celebrations.
- Maintained wilderness drift fences.
- Constructed all, or portions of, three trailhead horse camps.

SWV President Brent Pettey cites the group member's various, diverse philosophical and recreational interests as a source of cohesiveness, strength, and operational effectiveness. He points out that the Back Country Horsemen of California Mid Valley Unit, and the backpacking wilderness volunteers, have joined together in a common mission for the public's benefit. **While group members separately have different interests and interpretations of wilderness, they are working together to improve the public's understanding and appreciation of wilderness values.**

SWV members share a variety of geographical backgrounds, with a number of the members located in local rural communities, and others commuting to their wilderness volunteer work from large population centers in the San Joaquin Valley and San Francisco Bay Area. The groups' common goal is to assist the Forest Service in building broad-based support for wilderness management programs.

### **New Director of Civil Rights**

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Sandra Wallace

Sandra Wallace was selected as the new Civil Rights Director replacing Lorie Tapia-Piozet. She comes to the region from the Bureau of Reclamation's National Headquarters in Denver, Colorado where she was the Equal Employment Opportunity Manager. Sandra is highly regarded for her ability to effect positive changes.

An outstanding leader in his area, Sandra improved internal and external customer service by almost 100 percent while Acting Human Resources Officer for BLM in Reno, by immediately resolving conflict and addressing customer complaints. She is thoroughly versed in the relevant laws and procedures for her new position. Sandra is no stranger to the Forest Service or Region 5. She worked on the Shasta-Trinity

National Forest, the Regional Office in San Francisco where she specialized in dispute resolution and in the Washington Office during the 1990's.

## RO Awarded for CFC Efforts



Regional Forester, Jack Blackwell; Anne Silverman, Campaign Coordinator and James Giffin, Civilian Sector Chair.

The Regional Office was presented with the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Civilian Sector Superior Service Award for their 2003 CFC contributions. Employees contributed a total of \$48,711.08. Regional Forester Jack Blackwell was presented the award by James Griffin, Chair of the CFC. In a letter to Blackwell, he praised the leadership of Anne Silverman, CFC Coordinator (State and Private Forestry Staff) and said that her efforts "will allow thousands of individuals around the county to receive help in times of need. **It is heartwarming to know that we can count on leaders such as yourself to always endeavor to make a difference.**" Congratulations RO!

## Tina Terrell Named as Cleveland Forest Supervisor



Tina Terrell

Tina Terrell, currently a Legislative Specialist in the Washington Office will be the new supervisor of the Cleveland National Forest.

"With experience ranging from field work as a district ranger to direct interaction with members of Congress in Washington DC, Tina will bring strong skills and leadership to an excellent team of people on the Cleveland National Forest," said Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Jack Blackwell. "She is very familiar with our issues in California, from earlier assignments here as well as her current heavy involvement in legislative issues affecting us, such as the Adventure Pass and Healthy Forests Restoration Act. She is a very high-energy individual, and I am delighted to have her join us."

Terrell was born and raised in Philadelphia, Penn. Her first Forest Service job was in the summer of 1984 as a temporary forestry technician at the Northeastern Experiment Station in Broomall, Penn.

From 1984 to 1989 she worked as a Field Inventory Forester (FIF) and supervisory FIF working in Massachusetts, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, Arkansas and Mississippi. During that time, she graduated from Penn State University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Science.

In 1989, she transferred to the Six Rivers NF in Eureka, Calif., where she was Small Sales Forester and was heavily involved in the dedication ceremony for the Smith River National Recreation Area. From 1991 to 1994, she worked at the Pacific Southwest Region's Remote Sensing Lab in Sacramento as an Inventory Forester. In 1994, she moved to the National Forests in Alabama, managing a Tuskegee University program to recruit African Americans into careers with the Forest Service. She became the Tonto Basin District Ranger on the Tonto NF in Arizona in 1997. She accepted her current assignment as a Legislative Specialist in 2000.

"I have tailored my career toward working with people in an urban environment and using my knowledge and skills to balance the need to care for the land while serving the people who use the land," Terrell said. "I am fortunate to be going to a forest to work with people who are dedicated, hard-working and and take pride in what they do. I believe in strong linkages with the diverse publics we serve, as we look out over the horizon and ask those who want to be involved in the future of their national forests to help us set a course. Growing up in a large urban city, I know that national forests near urban areas are on the cutting edge of protecting natural resources entrusted to their care."

As part of her efforts to diversify the Forest Service and the forestry profession, and to educate young people in urban areas about natural resources, Terrell is very active in the Society for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. She was a member of the group's Executive Committee from 1996-2003. She is also a past chair of the Society of American Foresters' (SAF) National Committee on Cultural Diversity, and is involved in other national SAF committees.

A reporting date has not been set. She replaces Anne Fege, who retired in May.

### **Following the Smoke Project Receives National Award**



Karuk Indigenous Basketweavers Thelma McNeal, Laverne Glaze, Kathy McCovey-Barger, Verna Reece, Renee Stauffer and Zone Ferris with Hupa weaver, Bryan Colegrove.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) in Washington D.C announced that the Forest Service's *Following the Smoke*, a Passport in Time project on the Six Rivers National Forest, was selected as the recipient of the esteemed Chairman's Award for Federal Achievement in Historic Preservation. The award recognizes examples of exceptional Federal preservation leadership, programs and projects.

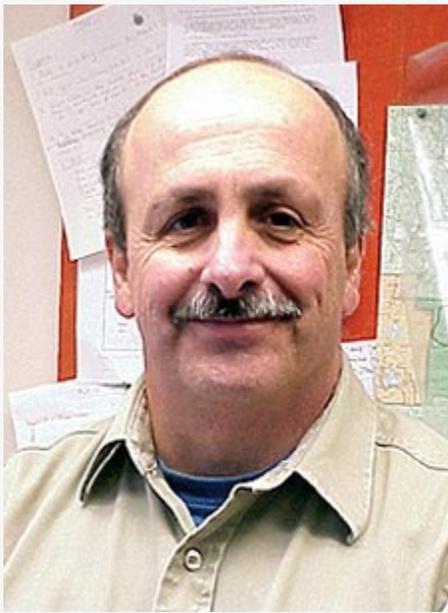
The Passport in Time is a volunteer program that provides opportunities for the public to work with professional archaeologists and historians on national forests and grasslands across the country. Projects include diverse activities such as archaeological excavation, reconnaissance survey, oral history, or historic structure restoration. The goal of PIT is to preserve the nation's past with the help of the public.

*Following the Smoke* was founded in 1997 by the Forest Service and the Karuk Indigenous Basketweavers to celebrate and teach Native American traditions through intercultural dialog and shared activities. The award was presented by ACHP Chairman John L. Nau, III on August 4 at the Governor's Residence in St Paul, Minnesota.

## Forest Product Person of the Year

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Leona Rodriack



Al Vazquez

Eagle Lake Ranger District employee, Al Vazquez, has been selected as the Pacific Southwest Regions' Forest Product Person of the Year.

Regional Forester, Jack Blackwell commented, "Al has distinguished himself by providing outstanding resource management leadership on the Eagle Lake Ranger District and being an effective proponent of active land management on the Lassen National Forest to protect and restore ecosystems. **His effective use of product removal tools, innovative project packaging, fair and consistent contract administration, has extended the quality resource work by his colleagues to whom he unselfishly credits these accomplishments.**"

Al has been an employee of the Eagle Lake Ranger District for over nine years and is the District Silviculturist, he said, "This award really belongs to all of the employees of the Eagle Lake Ranger District due to their hard work and dedication. It has been a joy to work with all these resource conscientious employees."

## Regional Forester's Honor Award to Lake Tahoe Basin

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Maribeth Gustafson, Mary Morgan, and Jeannie Stafford were awarded the Regional Forester's Honor award for their outstanding work with the Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee and for fostering local community collaboration.

The Advisory Committee was chartered by the Secretary of Agriculture to provide advice to the Federal Interagency Partnership on the protection of the environment and economic health of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The committee is composed of 20 members representing a broad array of interests in the region. Maribeth, Mary and Jeannie have worked tirelessly to support the committee. They are respected members of the community and have invested effort and energy toward building positive relationships.

Some examples of the advice and recommendations of the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee provides are:

- Yearly budget priority recommendations to the Federal Partnership
- Recommendations to the Federal Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment
- Washoe Tribe Access
- Summary report in Urban Lot management
- EPA Collaboration Request on Air Quality
- Committee Review and Recommendations on the progress of the Lake Tahoe Federal Interagency Partnership
- Recommendation to the Forest Service on Shared Facility Use with North Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Lake Tahoe Restoration Act Project Priority Lists for 2001 and 2002

## **Laurie Tippin Selected as New Supervisor of Lassen National Forest**

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Laurie Tippin

Laurie Tippin, who is currently Deputy Supervisor of the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin, has been named Supervisor of the Lassen NF in Susanville.

"Laurie's solid experience in forest management, stewardship contracting and fuels reduction makes her an excellent match for the Lassen National Forest, which falls within the area covered by the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act," said Regional Forester Jack Blackwell. "In addition, she has an exemplary reputation for professionalism and for dealing with difficult issues by finding common ground among individuals. Her broad work experience across the country, including here in California, has prepared her well for this assignment."

Tippin was born and raised in Sacramento. She attended the University of Nevada at Reno and is a forester by profession. Her first Forest Service job was in 1977 as a temporary forestry technician on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit in California, where she joined the agency permanently in 1980. She next worked on the Tahoe and Six Rivers National Forests. From 1988 to 1992, she worked in Beckwourth, Calif., on the Plumas NF as a district timber management assistant. During that time, she was temporarily promoted during a detail assignment to the Sierra National Forest where she was the forest's assistant timber management officer. In 1992, she accepted a permanent assignment as an assistant TMO on the Eldorado NF in Placerville, California.

In 1994, Tippin was promoted to Timber Management and State and Private Forestry Officer for the Boise NF in Idaho. In another promotion in 2000, she went to the Washington Office to become national program coordinator for the agency's stewardship contracting demonstration project. That program allows National Forests to test new contracting authorities to meet land management goals and the needs of local communities. She also provided national oversight to timber sale litigation. During that two-year assignment, she was detailed to the post of Acting Forest Supervisor on the Sawtooth NF in Idaho. In 2002, she became Deputy Forest Supervisor of the Chequamegon Nicolet NF. She was on a detail assignment as Forest Supervisor of the White River NF in Colorado when she was selected for the permanent Lassen NF post.

"I'm thrilled to be the Lassen National Forest's new supervisor," Tippin said. "Being a native of California with earlier assignments there, I'm looking forward to reconnecting with folks I've worked with in the past, building new relationships with Forest employees and the community, and returning to my home state. The employees of the Lassen National Forest are known for their skill and ability to get work done in a productive manner. That, coupled with the beautiful work setting, will make this assignment a real highlight of my life and career."

A reporting date has not been set. Tippin replaces Ed Cole, who became Sierra NF Supervisor in May.

## Cleveland Employee Receives Regional Award

Rich Hawkins, Supervisory Forester on the Cleveland National Forest, received a regional extra effort award for his leadership on the Cedar Fire. On October 26, he assumed command of what would be the largest and most devastating fire in California history. Rich describes the first few days of the fire as the worse days of his life.

First and foremost on his mind was the safety of firefighters and civilians. He provided leadership for Forest employees and a high level of coordination for multi-agency jurisdictions with limited assistance. He continued a high level of coordination and directed fire operations for several days while providing leadership not only for the Forest personnel but assisted other agency personnel as well to cope with the emotional toll of the fire. He took available resources with local knowledge and assigned them to areas of high priority for protection of property and life.

**These actions taken by Hawkins during extreme conditions, high stress and chaotic situations led to the saving of countless homes and lives throughout the local communities, towns and cities.**

## Chief Presents National Award in California

**Margie Clack**



At the Annual R-5 District Ranger meeting in Monterey, Chief Dale Bosworth presented R-5 employee Dan Kleinman with the "Paul Gleason Lead by Example" award in the category of mentoring and teamwork. **Kleinman works as the Fire Management Officer for the Greenhorn Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest and was one of six wildland fire service individuals chosen nationwide to receive this first ever award.**

The award was created to honor Paul Gleason, a Forest Service wildland firefighter whose career spanned several decades before he succumbed to cancer in 2003. The award is

Division Chief Dan Kleinman holding the "Paul Gleason Lead by Example Award" (center left) with Chief Dale Bosworth, Regional Forester Jack Blackwell and Greenhorn/Cannell Meadow District Ranger Dave Freeland

sponsored by the Wildland Fire Leadership Development Committee under the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, an interagency, intergovernmental group that works to improve policy, standards, and safety in wildland and prescribed fire management.

Gleason is best known for developing the LCES (Lookout, Communication, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones) concept that has become the foundation of wildland firefighter safety. The award highlights Gleason's influence on and contribution to wildland fire management, while honoring those who demonstrate the spirit of leadership for which he was known.

Kleinman received his award in the category of mentoring and teamwork. Through his efforts, he has led and taught Staff Ride techniques for Forest Service firefighters and other fire service organizations. He has worked to develop and encourage the use of sand tables as a tactical decision making tool for firefighters and fire leadership.

During last year's fire siege in Montana, as Operations Planning Chief for California Interagency Incident Management Team #1, Kleinman held daily sand table strategy sessions to assist the team operations. As an education and interpretation tool, the sand table became a pivotal stop on incident camp tours for the public and elected officials.

Kleinman's experience on National Incident Management Teams also includes the 9/11 response to the Pentagon and 2003 Columbia Shuttle Recovery in Texas.

He attended a week-long leadership workshop hosted by the Marine Corps University in Quantico, VA. He has led and mentored firefighters, studied wildland firefighting tactics and is an active instructor in wildland fire training. Kleinman has worked to improve firefighter safety throughout the Region and United States.

Kleinman started his firefighting experience with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in 1973. The following year, he began a long and distinguished career in the Forest Service fire service organization. This is his 32nd fire season, having experience on engines, fire prevention, and hotshots with eight years as the Fulton Interagency Hotshot Superintendent, located in Glennville, Calif.

He was born at Mather Air Force Base in California to Ted Kleinman, Air Force Officer and Dorothea, who managed the family operation.

### **Gloria Brown Selected as Los Padres National Forest Supervisor**

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Gloria Brown, currently Siuslaw National Forest (NF) Supervisor in Oregon, has been named as the new Los Padres NF Supervisor. "Gloria is very deserving of this promotion to an unusually large and complex national forest," said Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Jack Blackwell. "She successfully led the Siuslaw through difficult budgetary and other issues, working with the employees and a wide range of community partners, other agencies and scientists. She is an extremely hard-working and driven individual, but also a warm, open and people-oriented communicator who will be of great value to the Los Padres. I am very pleased to have her join us in California."

Brown, 53, was born and raised in Washington DC. She joined the Forest Service in 1974, working in planning and public affairs in the Washington Office while attending college at night. She graduated from Maryland State University in College Park, Md. in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism. A widow since 1981, Brown moved with her three teenage children to the Northern Regional Office in Missoula, Mont., in 1985, where she worked in public affairs and other offices. She went to the agency's Pacific Northwest Regional Office in Portland, Ore., in 1987, where she was responsible for the regional public involvement and legislative affairs programs.

She became the Willamette NF's public affairs officer in 1989, later taking a sabbatical to earn college credits in forestry from the Oregon State University School of Forestry in Corvallis. She returned to the Willamette as a

Deputy District Ranger in early 1994. Later that year, she accepted a Bureau of Land Management Area Manager position in Baker City, Ore. She went to BLM's Eastern States Office in Springfield, Va., in 1997, where she was Branch Chief for Minerals and Energy Adjudication. She returned to FS a year later, becoming Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Manager on the Gifford Pinchot NF in Washington state.

Brown became the Forest Service's first African-American female forest supervisor in 1999, accepting the top leadership post on the Siuslaw NF. Her work there included two national-level details to BLM and FS, including three months as a special assistant to the Chief. For her accomplishments as Siuslaw NF Supervisor, she received the agency's nationwide Rise to the Future Line Officer (decisionmaking authority) of the Year Award in 2003 for her exemplary work in fisheries management.

"I am looking forward to working with and for the employees of the Los Padres National Forest," Brown said. "The area has outstanding scenic, recreational and wilderness values. It will be exciting to be part of a legacy working to bring back the endangered California condor. I am also eager to take on the serious challenges of the fire and fuels management workloads there."

"The ongoing forest plan revision provides a perfect opportunity to continue building relationships with local communities, interested citizens and other agencies," she added.

Brown's three children are now grown and married, living in Virginia and Oregon. She has three grandchildren. She reported to the Los Padres on July 6.

### **Meet the Monitoring Council**

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**Judith A. Rosenberg**, Chairperson, was appointed by the Federal District Court to serve as the Chairperson of the Monitoring Council for the R-5 Women's Settlement Agreement. Ms. Rosenberg was a partner at a San Francisco law firm handling employment and personal injury litigation from 1985 to 1999. Judith then joined a management-consulting firm as a Senior Consultant and Counsel, working with large and small companies to improve employee relations, training, and compliance with state and Federal law.

Ms. Rosenberg received her J.D. from the University of California-Berkeley and her BA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She also holds a Diploma in Criminology from Cambridge University.

**Elaine Vercruysse** (phonetic pronunciation ver-crew-c), Class Representative, was selected to serve as the Class Representative of the Monitoring Council for the R-5 Women's Settlement Agreement. Ms. Vercruysse has worked for the Forest Service for 15 years. Elaine has worked in Region 5 for nine years on the Plumas National Forest in various forestry technician positions and as a hydrological technician. Prior to joining the Monitoring Council, she was located on the Rogue River National Forest in Region Six and has 10 years experiences as a union officer for NFFE.

Elaine is currently the Southwest Oregon Vice-President of the USDA Coalition of Minority Employees.

**Trudie A. Mahoney**, Agency Representative, has been selected to serve as the Agency Representative of the Monitoring Council for the R-5 Women's Settlement Agreement. She will replace outgoing Agency Representative Cathleen J. Thompson. Trudie has been with the Forest Service in Region 5 since 1988. She has worked in Fire and Aviation Management her entire Forest Service career.

Trudie holds a B.S. degree in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and will complete her M.A. degree in Organizational Leadership from Chapman University in fall 2004.

### **Regional Forester's Multicultural Accomplishment Awards and EEO/Affirmative Action Award**

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One of the highlights of the 2003 Women's Conference was the Information Expo. It was an opportunity for employees from the Washington Office, Regional Office and Forests to share information about their programs with displays, brochures and one-on-one networking. Participants received awards for their contributions to the achievement of a multicultural organization.

#### **Awardees included:**

Maxie Hamilton, RO; Trudy Mahoney and Anna Payne, Stanislaus; Sonia Tamez, RO; Janet Brandt-Jackson, RO; Sharyn Smith, Shasta-Trinity; Brenda Kendrix and Rosemary Jolly, RO; Laurie Fenwood, RO, Enterprise; Sandy Macias, RO; Judith Rosenberg, Cathleen Thompson and Elaine Verduyse; Don Otis, Mendocino National Forest, Julie Lydick, RO; Jim Oftedal, Sierra National Forest; Lydette Tellez, Six Rivers; Dave Vanderpool, Eldorado National Forest; Mary Weiss, RO; Guanda Fitch, WO and Gwen Bryant, RO.

### **Regional Forester's EEO Affirmative Action Award**

This award was presented to the Angeles, San Bernardino, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forest Supervisors for their exceptional outreach and recruitment efforts.

### **Nature Watch 2003 Awards**

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The Nature Watch program is managed and administered by the Forest Service Wildlife, Fish, Rare Plant Program in cooperation with the program sponsors and several partners. Projects in the field include partnerships numbering in the thousands! The program was designed to encourage people to experience wildlife, fish, and flowers in their natural settings; to promote recreational viewing opportunities, facilitate learning about the environment, and to promote conservation efforts and wise use of natural resources.

Region 5 received six of the 2003 Nature Watch awards. Special thanks to all the partners who helped make these projects possible.



The old Hi Mountain fire lookout was resored as a condor tracking station.

**National Nature Watch "Just Like New" Award.** *The Hi-Mountain Wildlife Lookout Renovation* on the Santa Lucia Ranger District, Los Padres National Forest was a joint venture between the Morro Coast Audobon Society, the Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor movements of the endangered California condor population. Recently, following a decade of vandalism and neglect, the Lookout underwent an amazing transformation. It is now a functional field-research station and interpretive center staffed by volunteers, students from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and condor biologists. The lookout was registered as a certified historic lookout and recognized as the first past fire lookout in the nation to be converted to a full-time wildlife observation and study site.



The Yosemite onion was one of three "rare" plants viewed on the tour.

**National Nature Watch Photography Awards - Wildflowers.** *Jennie Haas*, from the Groveland District, Stanislaus National Forest received national recognition for photos she took near Trumbull Peak, an Historical and Botanical Special Interest Area on the district. Forest Service botanists, archaeologists and an interpreter provided a walking interpretive tour of the the botanical and historical features of the area. More than 100 plant species were featured on the tour.



Bella Vista School students restoring habitat for the "Adopt-a-Bald Eagle" Project on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

**National Nature Watch Photography Awards - Wildlife.** *The Eyes of Wildlife Bella Vista School Adopt-a-Bald Eagle Project* on the Shasta Lake District of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest received a wildlife award for teaching families and local communities about the natural history and conservation of the bald eagle at Shasta Lake and to encourage appreciation of the bald eagle, osprey and other wildlife associated with the lake. More than 415 people participated in the project during presentations and habitat restoration activities.



Children attending the Fishing Derby learned about aquatic species.

**National Nature Watch Photography Awards - Fish.** *The Colusa Flyfishers Kids Fishing Derby*, Grindstone Ranger District on the Mendocino National Forest emphasizes teaching the public, especially children about conservation of aquatic species. District employees participated in the Derby and talked with participants offering a greater awareness of fisheries management.



Group watching for birds in the Kern Valley on the Sequoia National Forest.

**National Nature Watch Photography Awards - "People Watching Nature."** The Cannell Meadow Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest participated in the *10th Kern Valley Bioregions Festival*, a celebration of the natural and recreational diversity of plants and animals of the Central Valley, Chaparral, Great Basin, Mojave Desert and Sierra Nevada. **The area boasts hundreds of different species of birds, more than 2,000 species of plants and 115 species of mammals.**



Students and teachers alike enjoy the wildlife gardens.

**National Nature Watch "New Viewing Site" Award.** *The Songbird Garden and Riparian Restoration Greenhouse Project*, Klamath National Forest, Supervisor's Office involved nearly 400 students from the area designing and constructing outdoor wildlife gardens on local school campuses to create habitat for songbirds, butterflies and bats. Creating wildlife habitat (food, water and shelter) and learning the importance of restoration are the primary concepts taught. The gardens not only provide areas of study, but areas where students can sit for a break and enjoy nature. Funding was provided by the Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee.

## Honor Our Past to Build the Future



A group of Forest Service seniors and their supervisor were recently honored as recipients of the 2004 New Century of Service Group Award for Region 5. The 18 winners work on the Greenhorn Ranger District (Sequoia National Forest) under the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor. Their supervisor, Andy Benson, recruits and finds private sector job placements for his enrollees.

"They are talented, reliable, and it is an honor to work with them," he

said.

According to District Ranger Dave Freeland, the hardworking and dedicated seniors have contributed over 30,000 hours of public service work and 1,500 years of wisdom to carry on the spirit and legacy of the Forest Service as it nears the century mark.

"This award allows us the opportunity to recognize their many achievements in land stewardship, public service, and honors the Forest Service heritage," Freeland said.

Many of our seniors can recall visiting National Forests with their families to hike and camp. Now they enjoy the opportunity to instill and preserve the heritage of the Forest Service with their participation in this invaluable program," he added.

The Forest Service has a legacy of working with the economically disadvantaged, beginning in the 1930s with FDR's "Civilian Conservation Corps," continuing with LBJ's "Great Society Program" in the 1960s, and enduring today with the SCSEP.

The 18 recipients include Eugene Englesberger, Richard Gummert, Charles Heydon, Jean Hernandez, Elizabeth Ingram, Marilyn Koehler, Carol Moritz, Ronald Mullins, Jack O'Brien, Richard Perham, Jefferey Perry, Barbara Ranslem, Richard Reider, Margaret Rivers, Al St. Ours, Walt Waltman, Paul Watkins, and Rey Villalpando.

## Pacific Crest Trail Association Honors Volunteers and Partners



Pacific Crest Trail Winners: Kent Connaughton; Adrienne Hall, Liz LaPorta, Jean Ann Carroll, John Shilling, Bill Hay and Tim Stone.

At its annual Awards Dinner, The Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) recognized individuals and organizations for their significant contributions to the PCTA's efforts to protect, preserve and promote the PCT. Here are this year's Forest Service honorees:

The President's Award recognizes extraordinary achievement. This year, the PCTA presented the President's Award to **Bill Hay**, co-owner of the T.E.A.M.S. Enterprise. Bill's work on behalf of the PCT as one of the primary architects of the Optimum Trail Location Review

(OLR) process has laid the groundwork for successful land acquisitions to protect the unique character of the trail. In the process of developing OLRs for the PCT in California, Oregon and Washington, Bill has often donated his own time to walk the trail. Bill's kindness, professionalism and can-do attitude have made him a "good will ambassador" for the PCT land acquisition program. Bill's work is, and will continue to be, key to correcting deficiencies in the trail's route.

**John Shilling**, winner of the PCTA's Award of Merit, recently retired from the Forest Service after a career that spanned 38 years and took him from the forests of Northern California, to Lake Tahoe, to many years in the Washington Office. In his most recent role as the Recreation Director of the Pacific Southwest Region, John worked closely with the PCTA board to bring on the first fulltime PCT Manager (Tim Stone) and lay the groundwork for the PCT land acquisition program. John has been a good friend of the PCT and spent a career as a friend and champion of wild areas. The PCTA thanks him for a job well done.

**Bill Roberts**, winner of a PCTA Above & Beyond Award, is a longtime PCTA member and volunteer Forest Service packer working out of the Seiad Valley pack station on the Klamath National Forest. At the beginning of each season, Bill's highest priority is to open up the PCT as early as possible. Bill is notorious for staying on the trail until the job is done, no matter how long it takes and often rides out on the trail on his days off to perform even more maintenance. When he makes contact with PCT users, Bill always asks if they are PCTA members and provides nonmembers with a brochure. As one of the best cowboy poets on the PCT, Bill has also helped the PCTA by providing entertainment at events. He is an effective and enthusiastic equestrian ambassador for the PCT.

The Pacific Southwest Region Geometronics Unit, winner of a PCTA Partnership Award, is an example of a department providing exceptional assistance to the PCTA. Recently, the Geometronics department provided the PCTA with specialized maps depicting Congressional district boundaries and the PCT. The PCTA used these maps during its annual advocacy trip to Washington, DC. The maps proved invaluable in efforts to gain the

support of elected officials. Special thanks go to **Rich Spradling**; and his staff for making this project happen. It is this sort of willingness to go beyond the call of duty that makes the partnership between the PCTA and the FS a model for long-distance trail management. **Jean Ann Carroll**; of Geometronics was on hand to accept the award. Jean Ann has been instrumental in the new PCT map project that the PCTA has been working on with the FS.

**Mary Ellen Fitzgerald**; is in charge of maintaining trails within the Zig Zag Ranger District on the Mt. Hood National Forest in Oregon. Mary Ellen has worked with the PCTA Mt. Hood Chapter for over 10 years and has put together training and certification courses for PCTA volunteers and advocated for the PCT within her district. She stresses safety and quality of work on all projects and is willing to put in whatever hours are required to get the job done. In 2003, Mary Ellen made a special contribution to the PCT. She spent hundreds of hours working with PCTA volunteers to set up and run a three-week trail restoration project just behind Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood. Mary Ellen is a committed and dedicated partner and well deserving of the PCTA's 2003 Partner Agency Employee Award.

### **Regional Forester's Special Achievement Award**

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John Pronos, Stanislaus National Forest, received the Regional Forester's Special Achievement award for his efforts to create the Hazard Tree Recognition training program for Region 5 to help employees recognize trees that pose a danger to their safety.

The tragic death of a trail maintenance worker led to the awareness that Region 5 employees were not recognizing the hazard that dead, dying or damaged trees pose. John's extensive knowledge of hazard trees made him well-suited for the assignment. He created a power point training program that was adopted by the Regional Safety Program.

### **Regional Forester's Award for Heroism**

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Cleveland National Forest's Engine 39 received a special commendation for their rescue efforts associated with the tragic burnover of a Novato Fire District Engine on the Cedar Fire in San Diego County.

On October 29, 2003, a blowup situation on the Cedar Fire resulted in an engine company from the Novato Fire District in Marin County being overrun by the fire. The crew attempted to save themselves by taking refuge in the residence they were attempting to protect. Three of the four firefighters while burned, successfully entered the residence and a fourth firefighter, Steven Rucker, perished just a few steps from the door into the residence. The injured Captain of the Novato Fire District called for help and Cleveland National Forest Engine 39, under the leadership of Captain Brian Rhodes, maneuvered their fire engine safely through the burning flame front and were first on the scene of the burn. Brian and his crew provided immediate medical assistance to the survivors who suffered from severe and moderate burns.

The crew acted without hesitation to assist their fellow fighters. In addition, they also protected the scene for the fatality investigation. Members of Engine 39 include: Brian Rhodes, James Stratton, Ramie Castillo, Jose Vigil II and Joel Alverado.

## "Rise to the Future" Award



On June 23, 2004 the National "Rise to the Future" Awards Reception was held in Washington DC. "Rise to the Future" Awards acknowledge successes in improving fish habitat. A special award for "Excellence in Hydropower Planning" was presented to the Lassen and Shasta-Trinity National Forests. This award is the culmination of nearly six years of collaborative work by the Forest Service Pit 3, 4, 5 Hydroelectric Relicensing Interdisciplinary Team and Line Officers from both Forests.

The Forest Service Team was successful in restoring a significant increase of flows to the Pit River through participation on a large relicensing collaborative team, including the Licensee, special interest groups, the Pit River Tribe, local publics, as well as through active coordination with other

Awardees: From the Shasta-Trinity: Julie Nelson, Botanist; Nancy Hutchins, Wildlife Biologist; Kathy Valenzuela, Liaison. From the Lassen: Kathy Turner, team leader, and Chuck Rowe, Wildlife Biologist. Not pictured: Bill Brock, Fisheries Biologist, Shasta-Trinity; Doni Smith, Archaeologist, Lassen; Jess Bengoa, Engineer, Lassen and Julie Tupper, Regional Hydro Assistance Team, Regional Office.

involved resource agencies.

Prior to this relicensing PG&E released approximately 5% of the Pit River natural flows of 3,000 cfs into the stream course, with the rest of the river going into a pipe for power production. Additionally, these limited flows were released at a constant rate of 150 cubic feet per second (cfs) year-round.

Through the collaborative work in developing and interpreting resource studies, and then negotiating a final agreement, the Team was able to obtain consensus on an increase in Pit River flows of 300-400 cfs, or about 12% of the natural river flow. In addition to increasing the volume of water into the river, the new flows vary by season and increase as they move downstream through the three dams that alter nearly 20 miles of river within this project. These changes by season and reach of the river more closely mimic the natural flow of the river as it existed prior to the hydroelectric project. These improvements in the flow regime will greatly benefit fish habitat as well as other native aquatic organisms and riparian vegetation as the river returns to a more natural condition.

Through long hours and dedication, the Team was ultimately successful in providing benefits for the aquatic habitat of the Pit River on National Forest System lands by re-establishing a more natural flow regime. These improvements will be in place for the 30-year term of the new project license.

## A Regional Volunteer Network Rises from the Ashes of the October Fires

Geoffrey Smith

During the months of October and November of 2003, firestorms raged throughout San Diego County, destroying property, lives and public resources. The ability of the local agencies and jurisdictions to suppress the fires was overwhelmed, and the ensuing recovery efforts will require substantial resources from the private, governmental and nonprofit sectors for years to come.

**San Diego Fire Recovery Network (SDFN)**; The SDFRN, met in November 2003, an overall strategy was developed, and 8 work groups were formed resulting in a Volunteer Coordination Team which developed a program for the San Diego County region. A SDFRN partner, The San Diego River Park Foundation, has



Members of the CCC crew and volunteers who installed the last 5 acres of straw wattles upstream of the San Diego Country Estates.

stepped forward to sponsor the volunteer coordination effort. The Cedar fire affected virtually the entire headwaters region of the San Diego River. Scores of volunteers have been mobilized to perform much-needed restoration work on public lands in the region as a direct result of these efforts.

**Take Pride in America (TPIA)**, a national partnership coordinated by the U.S. Department of the Interior, empowers volunteers to improve our parks, refuges, recreation areas, and cultural and historical sites. It is a partnership effort among Federal, State, and local governments, community, civic, and youth organizations, conservation groups, and corporations. TPIA initiated a Southern California Fires initiative, generating pledges of 750,000 volunteer hours for burn area restoration - that's 1 hour for every acre burned! The TPIA program has provided important and timely support for the local grass-roots volunteer-based program.

As the city, county, state and federal public lands re-open following the fires these Volunteer programs are playing a major role in coordinating volunteer response with the needs of the agencies charged with managing these public lands.

## Highway 18 Defense Group Receive Secretary's Heroism and Emergency Response Award



Chiefs Randy Clauson (San Bernardino National Forest), Jim Ahearn (San Bernardino National Forest), Bill Bagnell (Crest Forest Fire District) and George Corley (San Bernardino County Fire Department) were among those awarded at a ceremony with Congressman Jerry Lewis, Deputy Regional Forester Bernie Weingardt and San Bernardino Supervisor Paul Biane.

On March 7, 2003, the California Governor's Office declared a State of Emergency for San Bernardino County. The stage was set for a wildfire of catastrophic proportions.

On October 25, 2003, Santa Ana winds fanned a fire that started in lower Old Waterman Canyon Road at 9:40am and began pushing flames through the drought parched vegetation. Within ten minutes, the fire had spread to 100 acres.

By 10:15 am it became clear that nearby communities, including the city of San Bernardino would need to be evacuated. That evening, mandatory evacuation of the entire front country of the city would be initiated and conducted in the dark. The fire had already extinguished power to the area. This monster, the Old Fire, consumed over 4,000 acres, destroyed 400 homes and was responsible for two fatalities before

the day was out.

As dawn arrived on October 26, Incident Commander Norm Walker was contemplating the possibility of the worse-case scenario...fire reaching the 40,000 homes in the Lake Arrowhead community. Mandatory evacuations of Crest Forest, Cider Pines, Lake Arrowhead and Running Springs were directed. Resources were stretched to the maximum and another fire had broken out to the west called the Grand Prix Fire.

By evening, it became clear the emergency conditions necessitated an aggressive and offensive firefighting assault. When the main fire crossed Highway 18 west of the Cliffhanger Restaurant, the order was given to begin firing along Highway 18 from the west across the mountain rim. The northeast winds were predicted to shift, which would push the flames north across Highway 18 and right into Lake Arrowhead.

Four highly trained firefighters, Randy Clauson, Jim Ahern, George Corley and Bill Bagnell initiated the difficult, strenuous firing operation at 9:00 pm. Fire operations continued into the morning of October 27, as the four firefighters moved along Highway 18 to the east towards Running Springs. This operation progressed throughout the day and into the next. The firing would not be completed until 11pm on October 28th. The operation was a success.

**The heroic, exhaustive efforts of these four individuals over the course of three days resulted in saving thousands of homes and billions of dollars in infrastructure around Lake Arrowhead.**

## Secretary's Award for Heroism and Emergency Response Goes to Mountain Area Safety Task Force



From left: Chiefs Dave Neff (CDF), Dan Wurl (San Bernardino County Fire), Tom O'Keefe (former CDF), Peter Hills (San Bernardino County Fire), Doug Pumphrey (San Bernardino National Forest) waiting to receive awards for creating the MAST organization.

In March, 2003, the California Governor's Office declared a State of Emergency for San Bernardino County. The forest health situation in the San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains spans ownership boundaries and agency responsibilities. Large stands of dead and dying trees pose a significant wildfire hazard and thousands of homes are at risk around the communities of Lake Arrowhead, Angelus Oaks and Idyllwild. The communities of Running Springs, Big Bear and Crest Forest are also impacted. The removal of the dead and dying trees is proving difficult and expensive.

It became clear to San Bernardino Forest Supervisor, Gene Zimmerman that a fresh approach would be essential to provide an integrated and coordinated approach to address the crisis landscape-wide. The San Bernardino National Forest initiated and led an effort in forming the

Mountain Area Safety Task Force (MAST).

This partnership with State and local governments and the private sector is perhaps the most extensive pre-event planning effort to take place for a national forest and its surrounding communities. It includes the Forest Service, the California Department of Forestry, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office, the San Bernardino County Fire Department, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, local fire districts, the California Highway Patrol and the California Department of Transportation.

Joint development of fire suppression strategies was the initial focus of the coordination effort and the Task Force organized under the Incident Command System. Additional common priorities were soon set in support of providing overall public safety. These included: securing protection of evacuation routes, communication sites, and public infrastructure by reducing fuel loading; reducing threat of hazardous fuels within wildland-urban interface communities and planning for long-term fuels reduction work.

Thanks to the efforts of the Task Force, two new Fire Safe Councils were established and are instrumental in relaying information to thousands of interested citizens. The Forest's effective partnership efforts have resulted in many other organizations and volunteers assisting in the tree mortality crisis. Also critical in these processes are the San Bernardino National Forest Association's Fire Education volunteers and California Department of Forestry's Volunteers in Prevention who are dedicated to educating the public about fire prevention.

A recent example of the success of the Task Forces cooperative effort was the 1400 acre Bridge Fire, which forced the evacuation of 1500 people and closed one of three mountain community evacuation routes. The pre-planning worked completed by the Task Force contributed to every evacuee returning home safely. The Forest assembled a full-scale information effort in the first two hours of the incident. In addition to traditional media efforts, information officers were placed in communities and an expanded Fire Information Center was established. The Center maintained information networks with local fire departments and provided e-mail and telephone updates to local Fire Safe Councils.

Due to the emergency preplanning of the Task Force, loss of life and property were far less than they potentially could have been. For more information about MAST, take a look at their website at:  
[www.calmast.org/mast/public/](http://www.calmast.org/mast/public/)

*Awardees included:*

- **Forest Service**
  - Gene Zimmerman
  - Michael Dietrich
  - Doug Pumphry
- **California Department of Forestry**
  - Tom O'Keefe
  - Dave Neff
- **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office**
  - John Hernandez
  - Keith Brushley
- **San Bernardino County Fire Department**
  - Peter Hills
  - Dan Wurl
  - Peter Brierty
  - Denise Benson
- **Governor's Office of Emergency Services**
  - John Rowden

## **Settlement Agreement Staff Director Named**

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Julena, far right, at the Fresno Fire Hire job fair.

Positions for the recently formed Settlement Agreement staff are rapidly being filled. Julena Pope has been selected as the director for that staff.

Julena has been with the Forest Service for 30 years. Born and raised in Oklahoma, she moved to Utah and finished high school there. She has spent most of her career in administration with twenty-five years at the Forest level. Julena was Supervisory Personnel Management Specialist on the Ashley National Forest in the Intermountain Region, then a Personnel staffing Specialist in the Regional Office in Odgen, Utah. Before coming to Region 5, she held the position of Assistant Director of Human Resources Management in the Rocky Mountain Region in Colorado.

## Ed Cole Named as Sierra Forest Supervisor



Ed Cole

Ed Cole is the new supervisor of the Sierra NF. He was formerly supervisor of the Lassen National Forest.

"Ed's considerable breadth of experience, combined with his highly effective work as a forest supervisor, make him fully prepared for this promotion to the top leadership post on one of our most complex and challenging forests," said Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Jack Blackwell. "I know that he will do a great job for the Sierra National Forest and the surrounding communities."

Cole was born and raised in Wisconsin. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1972, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture with an emphasis in regional planning. He had spent the summers of 1970 and 1971 as an engineering technician on the Custer NF in Montana and the Daniel Boone NF in Kentucky. Following graduation, he worked for a short time as principal designer for a private landscape architecture and urban planning firm in Detroit,

Mich.

He received his permanent FS appointment in the fall of 1972, as a landscape architect on the Black Hills NF in South Dakota. He moved to the Umatilla NF in Oregon in 1976 to work as the forest landscape architect and assistant recreation staff officer. He next became the recreation staff officer for the Malheur NF in Oregon in 1985. In 1988, he was selected as Area Ranger for the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area between Oregon and Idaho on the Wallowa-Whitman NF. Cole moved to Washington DC in 1997, to complete a year-long Congressional fellowship on the staff of US Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT). For the next two years in FS's national headquarters office there, he was a legislative specialist in the agency's Legislative Affairs staff, with a short detail as national deputy director for range management. He came to California in early 2000, to his present post as Lassen NF Supervisor.

"The word 'Sierra' is synonymous with what is wild and rugged about California, and I am excited about working with the highly skilled employees of the Sierra National Forest in managing this notable piece of the National Forest System," Cole said. "The southern Sierra Nevada is a major attraction to visitors from all over the world, and I look forward to working with surrounding communities, interested citizens and other agency leaders in charting a course for the present and future management of these federally managed lands."

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my experiences with the talented employees of the Lassen National Forest," Cole said. "Through our hard work and commitment, the forest has an excellent reputation and working relationship with the communities in northeastern California. I feel very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to live and work in two of the most beautiful parts of the state."

He replaces Jim Boynton, who was selected as Supervisor of the Okanogan and Wenatchee NF's in Washington state last year.

## **Jeff Walter Selected Six Rivers Supervisor**

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Jeff Walter, formerly Clackamas District Ranger on the Mt. Hood National Forest in Oregon, was named as the new Six Rivers NF Supervisor.

"With his experience as a district ranger and acting forest supervisor, plus his extensive knowledge of the Northwest Forest Plan, Jeff will be a great asset to the Six Rivers," said Regional Forester Jack Blackwell. "As team leader for the Columbia Basin Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), he demonstrated the ability to lead a diverse team and work with other agencies and scientists. I know that he will bring all his leadership skills to bear as forest supervisor, and I look forward to working with him."

Walter was born and raised in Wisconsin. He graduated from Colorado State University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management. He spent his summers during and after college as a Forest Technician on the Routt NF in Colorado and the Targhee and Caribou NF's in eastern Idaho.

His permanent appointment to FS was in 1978, when he became a forester on the Boise NF in Idaho. He moved to the Sierra NF in California in 1986 to work in silviculture. He went to the Siskiyou NF in Oregon in 1988, where he worked on the Silver Fire recovery project and later became Resource Assistant on the Illinois Valley Ranger District there. In 1994, he moved to Boise, Ida., where he became the EIS team leader for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project. During that time, he spent four months on the Manti-La Sal NF in Utah as Acting Forest Supervisor. He went to his current District Ranger position in October of 2000.

"I'm honored and excited about coming to the Six Rivers, a place that I often visited for recreation when I lived in southwest Oregon," Walter said. "I'm really looking forward to meeting and working with the employees of the Six Rivers NF. I'm equally anxious to build relationships with interested citizens and other agency leaders in the surrounding communities."

He replaces Lou Woltering, who moved to a senior regional wildlife leadership post in Albuquerque, N.M. late last year.

## Regional Forester's Honor Award



Susan Frankel

Regional Forester, Jack Blackwell presented Susan Frankel a regional honor award at a recent employee meeting in the Regional Office for her leadership in responding to Sudden Oak Death in California.

Susan was instrumental in forming the California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF), a multi-agency, community and industry based group that coordinates efforts to identify priority disease research, monitoring, education and training and prevention activities to slow the spread of the disease that has killed thousands of oaks and tanoaks in 12 coastal counties in California since 1995. Susan served as chair of the task force when it was founded and is now one of six Board members who provide oversight.

She makes significant contributions through her drive, leadership, passion and ability to communicate within the Forest Service and to state and tribal governments, regulatory agencies, research and the

media to make COMTF a success at delivering programs to slow the spread of this disease. She is sought out nationally by the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Program to contribute her knowledge to ensure that fair regulatory and quarantine measures can be developed to prevent the spread of SOD. She has hosted international field trips and seminars that have contributed to understanding this disease. Congratulations! Learn more about Sudden Oak Death at: [www.suddenoakdeath.org/](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/)

## Cleveland National Forest Receives 2003 Taking Wing Award



Corey Ferguson, GIS Specialist and Kirsten Winter, Forest Biologist on the Cleveland National Forest receive the national Taking Wing award.

The Cleveland National Forest and the San Diego Natural History Museum received one of the National Taking Wing Awards for the development of the San Diego County Bird Atlas. The primary award winners were Philip Unitt, San Diego Natural History Museum, who created and led the project, and four staff from the Cleveland National Forest who assisted with funding the project and completing surveys for the Bird Atlas - Kirsten Winter, Forest Biologist, Corey Ferguson, GIS specialist, Bernice Bigelow, Resource Officer, and Anne Fege, former Forest Supervisor.

Additional partners that contributed to the project, who received award certificates, were the San Diego Natural History Museum, National Fish And Wildlife Foundation, Conservation Biology Institute, US Geological Survey, California State Parks, California Dept.

Transportation, US Navy, AMEC Earth and Environmental Services, St. George Consulting, San Diego County Planning and Land Use, San Diego Water Utilities Dept, Vista Irrigation District, California Dept. Fish and Game, San Diego Buena Vista Audubon Society, Palomar Audubon Society, San Diego Audubon Society, San Diego Nature Conservancy, and the Zoological Society of San Diego.

The San Diego County Bird Atlas was established to update field data to assess changes in the environment,

monitor bird distribution and status-and ultimately, measure the effectiveness of conservation and migratory bird habitat management. The project has been a success, resulting in a vast amount of invaluable data for scientists, teachers, students, land managers, conservationists, policy makers and birders alike. Major hurdles of this undertaking have been the size of the project and the accelerated loss and fragmentation of habitats in San Diego County. The county includes more than 4300 square miles in a rapidly developing area of southern California. All areas of the county were surveyed during data collection for the Bird Atlas.

The data were recorded in a Microsoft Access database. Information on bird distribution and abundance was overlaid with other information such as elevation, average temperature, and vegetation type to develop predictive habitat models for species. The project will now enable land managers to develop more effective habitat and land management plans in San Diego County and the Cleveland National Forest. The San Diego County Bird Atlas is scheduled to be published in summer 2004, and will be released in the form of a book, a CD, and an interactive web page.

### **Thank-You Note to Ranger**

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*This letter was sent to Tracy Markley, Forest Patrol Officer on the Los Padres National Forest:*

Tracy,

I'm the guy who was driving the white Ford Expedition on Sunday... along with my wife and three small children. The same guy (and family) who were struck by the motorcyclist in the tunnel on our way to Wheeler's Gorge on route 33. I just wanted to say, "Thank you so much for everything you did for us during that horrible situation".

Although accidents are extremely terrible and sometimes change people's lives upside down for ever... I just wanted you to know that you made the very best out of a completely awful situation. You were on the scene in minutes, you radioed for the ambulance and the police, you rendered aid to the poor guy on the motorcycle... and you made my children feel happy and safe while we sorted through the mess of paperwork and verbal reports. Although the police took about 40 minutes to arrive on the scene... you chose to stay with us... keeping control of the scene... and passed out water, toys and coloring books to my scared little children.

You are a wonderful person... and a tremendous Ranger... and I feel extremely fortunate that you were there for us. Thanks again Tracy... and please don't hesitate to call or email if you ever need anything.

Sincerely Yours,

Ed (Edward Lee Bichard Jr.)

## Region Roundup

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### Contents

Bi-National Children's Day

The CREW Keeps YCC Alive on the Los Padres

First Fire "Regional Occupation Program" Class Graduates

Forest Service Conducts Prescribed Burn

FIREWATCH -- New High-Tech Helicopter Helps Firefighters and the Public

Hmong National Development Conference

Susanville Interagency Fire Center Dedicated

Mendocino National Forest Acquires 22,574 Acres

Mt. Whitney's 100th Anniversary

New Century of Service Seeks Volunteer Community Service Stories

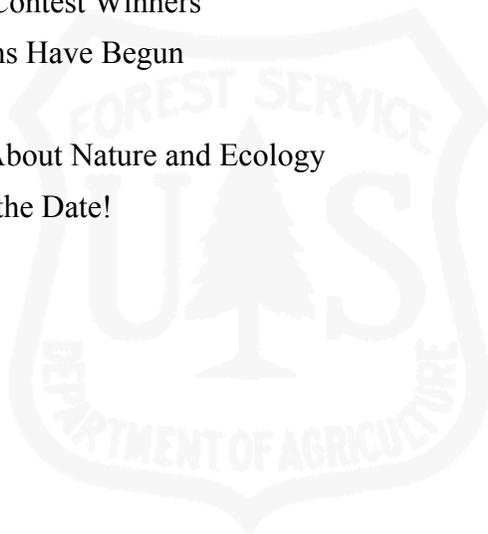
Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Winners

Smokey's 60th Birthday Celebrations Have Begun

Alpine Tot's Meet Smokey

Kids in the Creek: Students Learn About Nature and Ecology

2004 Women's Conference -- Save the Date!



## Bi-National Children's Day

Phebe Brown



Participants at the 2nd Annual Bi-National Children's Day event on the Cleveland National Forest.

The Cleveland National Forest and Mexico celebrated the 2nd annual Bi-National Children's environmental education day. The celebration took place in the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area on the and was a huge success. Approximately 165 children and adults from 15 different agencies on both sides of the border planted trees and participated in environmental education activities throughout the day. The day ended with certificates presented to the participating organizations. The event is sponsored under the Sister Forest Agreement with Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR) Mexico.

## The CREW Keeps YCC Alive on the Los Padres

Jeff Saley



Young men and women building a willow dam on the Los Padres National Forest.

For 5 weeks last summer, twenty-four young men and women participated in a conservation work and environmental education program. The project utilized the popularity of a well known, but scarcely used program authority, Youth Conservation Corps (YCC).

The YCC enjoyed great success and popularity from 1965-1985 but has since fallen on hard times due to shifts in national funding priorities. It is a nationally legislated program that has three simple objectives; 1) accomplish needed conservation work on public lands 2) provide work experiences for young people between the ages of 15 and 18 years of age while 3) developing their appreciation of the land management principles on which the work is based.

As luck would have it, the Concerned Resource and Environmental Workers (CREW) is already operating on the Los Padres and has very similar objectives. CREW CEO Wally McCall reports that "during 2003 we paid 149 youth and 21 adults for over 16,000 hours of valued conservation work."

With partnership support from the Los Padres/Ojai Ranger District, the California Department of Fish and Game and the Southern California Watershed Protection District, the CREW operated a YCC program to restore Steelhead Trout habitat in the Piedra Blanca Creek area of Ventura County.

According to Mr. McCall, "with the help of Ojai Ranger District employees Terry Austin - Biologist, Dario Malengo and Max Korten - Recreation and Wilderness specialists, YCCers camped out and identified non-native plants, collected seeds and cuttings from native plants, re-routed trails, built willow dams and mattresses, monitored water quality and planted several acres of severely eroded habitat. None of these kids had ever seen wild, native Steelhead Trout and very few had camped in the Forest overnight. What an experience!! Now,

many of them say they are camping and hiking for pleasure!"

This summer's Youth Conservation Corps Enrollees also earned science credit through the Fillmore Unified School District.

Completion of the 2003 program ended phase one of a two year project. STAND BY for our next YCC installment!

## **First Fire "Regional Occupation Program" Class Graduates**

**Lily Ramos**



On April 30 2004, the first Reedley High School Wildland Fire Science Regional Occupation Program (ROP) class graduated. There were fourteen students in total from 4 school districts including Kings Canyon, Parlier, Sanger, and Kingsburg Unified School District. A total of 167 hours were completed in the program that was hosted by Reedley High School. The Central California Consortium (CCC) provided funding for the initial program. Next year the program will be funded through state funds by Valley ROP.

The Wildland Fire Science ROP Program introduced the students to topics such as: basic firefighting, fire

behavior and weather, and the use of chainsaws to name a few. Students were required to complete intense comprehensive course work which emphasized safety. They were taught basic fire suppression techniques and field exercises such as: chainsaw operation, hand tool use and maintenance, and hand line construction.

The students have completed Introduction to Fire Behavior and Weather, Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS), Basic Firefighting, First Aid, CPR, and basic Wildland power saw qualifications. They also took a physical endurance test (pack test), which requires the students to walk 3 miles carrying 45 pounds within 45 minutes.

The students will meet entry level requirements as Firefighter Interns and will earn 3 units of college credit at Reedley College. Many students will be entering the Forestry Program at Reedley College. The CCC will continue to mentor the students by providing college and scholarship information. In addition, they will have access to summer employment and workshops such as how to make a presentation and resume writing.

Six of the students from the ROP program were offered permanent positions with the Forest Service through the

Apprentice and Student Permanent Employment Program (SCEP). **Dave Kohut, ROP Instructor and retired Forest Service Fire Chief stated, "It was very exciting to see how far along the students came from showing up the first day, to cutting line, and even running a chainsaw. I am very proud of all them."**

## Forest Service Conducts Prescribed Burn

Phebe Brown



A prescribed burn helps improve habitat for elk and deer on the Mendocino National Forest.

Mendocino National Forest fire personnel conducted a successful prescribed burn on the northern end of Lake Pillsbury in Gravelly Valley to improve foraging habitat for tule elk and deer in the area.

The burn was accomplished through partnership funding from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). Prescribed burns and other vegetative projects made possible by cooperation among RMEF, the Forest Service and others have greatly benefited elk populations in California, according to Forest Service officials.

The 100-acre Lake County burn was predominantly in grassland and was accomplished by 55 Forest Service fire personnel on June 15. Benefits will be seen with next year's improved forage.

"When most people think of elk, they think of states like Colorado, Wyoming and Montana," said Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Jack Blackwell. "However, we have three subspecies right here in California. The great work of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has made our state a better place for these magnificent animals, and enriched us all in the process."

All of these herbivores need to eat large amounts of vegetation. To help provide that, the Forest Service and RMEF have teamed up to eliminate invasive species and restore desired vegetation, rehabilitate meadows, provide water sources, thin trees, and conduct prescribed burning to encourage new growth on national forests.

There were only about 500 tule elk left in three herds in California in 1971, and today there are more than 3,600 in 22 different herds. Relocated tule elk have been in the Gravelly Valley area since the late 1970s.

Mendocino National Forest is actively working working in partnership with groups such as the RMEF, California Department of Fish and Game and the California Deer Association to improve habitat for tule elk and also deer in the Gravelly Valley area.

Other Gravelly Valley projects in the works are more prescribed burning and mechanical manipulation of brush, and the installation of an interpretive sign to inform the public about tule elk, according to Brett Carre, District wildlife biologist.

RMEF also works with the California Dept. of Fish and Game, private landowners, timber companies, bow and rifle hunting groups, universities and others. Accomplishments include purchasing and protecting land as well as conservation easements, improving habitat, studying elk movement, and relocating tule elk to enhance genetic diversity and protect them from predation. Pamphlets, interpretive signs and other materials have been

created to help the public better understand elk. California residents donate more money to RMEF than any other state. RMEF granted almost \$428,000 to 15 groups and agencies in California last year, with matching funds bringing the total to more than \$950,000.

"Much of this work simply would not get done without the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and I want to express my appreciation for the work they do," Blackwell said. "Thanks to this dedicated organization, state and federal government agencies as well as private landowners will be able to maintain thriving populations of elk in California."

## **FIREWATCH -- New High-Tech Helicopter Helps Firefighters and the Public**



With the potential ahead for one of our worst fire seasons ever, firefighters and the public have a new, innovative, high-tech friend - FIREWATCH. The bright red AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter is one of 25 that was transferred to the Forest Service from the U.S. Army after they were retired from active military service in 1996.

The helicopter is equipped with specialized low-light and other cameras, including high-resolution color cameras capable of reading a license plate at more than half a mile. It has infrared capability to see through smoke, and it delivers real-time video to fire managers on the ground. This allows them to monitor the current fire situation from the

With the new equipment, the FIREWATCH helicopter is capable of reading a license plate at more than half a mile.

incident command post and make improved decisions on deploying firefighters and helping Sheriff's Departments order timely evacuations. Sophisticated lasers can hold the cameras on specific spots during flight for detailed examination.

Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth; Regional Forester Jack Blackwell; PSW Research Director Jim Sedell; Director of Fire & Aviation Ray Quintanar, other fire specialists and the media were invited to see a demonstration of FIREWATCH's high-tech capabilities at the San Bernardino Airtanker Base on August 8.

"The technology is amazing," the Chief said. I wish we'd had this when I was fighting fires. The big deal is the real-time information. Most of the time, you get somebody describing to you what's out there. But the only way you can see what's going on, especially with the smoke, is with something like this."

As the demonstration progressed, he said he could envision other potential uses for the helicopter including

search and rescue operations, other disasters, and homeland security.

The FIREWATCH helicopter has already been successfully used on the Pine, Crown and Foothill fires in Southern California and the Sims fire on the Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests.

A second helicopter is currently being modified and should be completed by October.

## **Hmong National Development Conference**

**Lily Ramos**



CCC staff Blong Vang; James Oftedal; Bao Vue, Fabian Garcia and Hmong National Development student participants.

The Central California Consortium (CCC) participated as a workshop presenter at the Hmong National Development (HND) Conference, which was held April 2-4, 2004 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The CCC partnered with HND to benefit the Forest Service in increasing diversity within its workforce and the Hmong community by seeing Hmong role models such as Bao Vue and Blong Vang.

The CCC held a two hour workshop entitled "How to Succeed in the Workplace When you are the Minority" which focused on giving young professionals tools to succeed in the workplace. The workshop had components like breaking the ice, networking, how to look and act professional, and the importance of follow up. The CCC workshop included role playing, and a short film which showed the importance of staying focused on your goals and overcoming life's obstacles.

The CCC's workshop included the CCC Director, James Oftedal who shared his experience in working for the Forest Service and how he went from an entry level position to a program director. CCC Asian Community Liaisons Bao Vue and Blong Vang shared their personal stories in overcoming adversity as first generation Hmong students in this country, as well as their educational and career goals. CCC Rural Coordinator, Fabian Garcia, shared his experience in working for the Forest Service.

The CCC recognizes the importance of working with the Hmong community and conducts outreach to make them aware of the opportunities within the Forest Service. Fresno has the 2nd largest Hmong population in the country. The CCC is looking forward to participating in the next HND conference, which will be held in Fresno, California in 2005!

## Susanville Interagency Fire Center Dedicated

Leona Rodreick



Ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Interagency Fire Center in Susanville.

More than 150 people representing various agencies and from surrounding communities celebrated the opening of the new Susanville Interagency Fire Center on April 22nd. Several dignitaries from senate and congressional offices, as well as leaders from various federal, state county and city agencies congratulated the building of the new state of the art facility. Afterwards a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to dedicate the new building open to public.

Completion of the new dispatch center is testimony to the hard work and dedication of SIFC employees

who worked nearly 15 years on planning, design and multi-agency funding.

The ceremony coincided with the 30th anniversary SIFC's 1974 organization in the former BLM office building next door to this new facility. The idea for what is now SIFC was developed some years earlier, however. In 1970, BLM Susanville District Manager Dean Bibles and Lassen National Forest Supervisor Jim Berlin recognized combining-dispatching resources was cost effective and efficient. BLM and Forest Service dispatchers began working together in the Forest Supervisor's office.

Federal, state and local cooperation was forged in 1982, when the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection joined the organization. SIFC grew again in 1984, with the formation of Fire Net Lassen and the beginning of 24-hour dispatching services by the interagency group.

Today, SIFC provides emergency dispatching services for the Lassen National Forest, BLM, CDF, Lassen Volcanic National Park, 20 local fire departments and an ambulance company. The center coordinates 911 emergency dispatching.

The center continues to use the "closest available resources" concept. When an emergency occurs anywhere in the 6.5 million-acre SIFC protection area, the closest fire engines, aircraft or crews respond, regardless of jurisdiction. During fire season, SIFC dispatchers can call on 30 fire engines, three helicopters, an air tanker and 18 ground crews. During major incidents, they can summon resources from anywhere in the state or nation.

The new center contains 9,000 square feet of workspace - about triple the room in the former building, which is about 70 years old. The heart of the center is the dispatch "floor" with six state of the art, computerized dispatch stations. Living quarters and kitchen facilities enable the center to function smoothly 24 hours a day, 365 days a

year. Center managers from the CDF, BLM and Lassen National Forest equally share management responsibilities.

## Mendocino National Forest Acquires 22,574 Acres

Phebe Brown



On hand to help Mendocino Forest Supervisor Jim Fenwood (left) unveil a sign welcoming the public into the newly added area were: Chris Kelly, The Conservation Fund; Banky Curtis, California Department of Fish and Game and John Donnelly, Wildlife Conservation Board.

With a slow shove, District Ranger Jim Giachino opened the gate to a previously closed road and welcomed the public into the 22,574 acres that have recently been added to the Mendocino National Forest in northern California.

The Forest celebrated the grand opening May 19 into the largest land acquisition in California Region 5 history with a ceremony followed by a tour. The property was acquired late last year through a \$7.03 million grant from the State of California in partnership with The Conservation Fund.

The Commander South property, acquired from Pioneer Resources I, LLC, was one of the largest single private in holdings within the Mendocino National Forest.

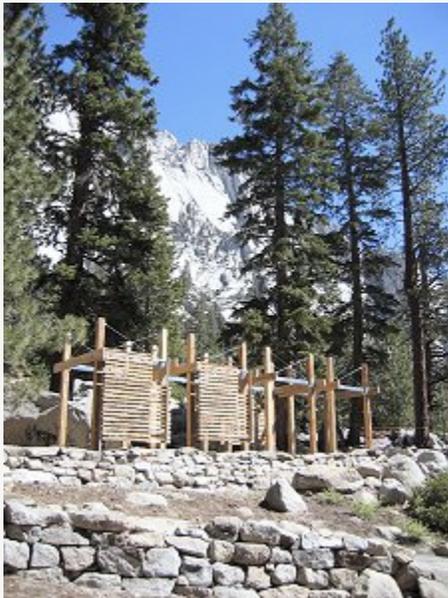
The Conservation Fund is a national nonprofit organization that works with public agencies to protect the nation's land and water resources. In November 2003 the State of California Wildlife Conservation Board unanimously approved a \$7.03 million grant to The Conservation Fund for the acquisition with funds from the voter-approved CA Clean Water, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Fund. In December 2003 the property was conveyed to the Mendocino National Forest.

It will be managed under the Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan for multiple public benefits, including recreation such as hunting and hiking, maintenance of wildlife corridors, protection of threatened and endangered species, promotion of old growth timber characteristics, hazardous fuels reduction and enhancement of watersheds.

**"This was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity," Jim Fenwood, Forest Supervisor, said. "The public benefits from our acquiring fragmented in-holdings. It has benefits for wildlife corridors, the management of intact watersheds for fisheries and control of erosion, and particularly for forest fire management."**

On hand to help Fenwood unveil a sign welcoming the public into the newly added area were: John Donnelly, Wildlife Conservation Board, Chris Kelly, The Conservation Fund; and Banky Curtis, California Department of Fish and Game.

## Mt. Whitney's 100th Anniversary



The Mt. Whitney trailhead was built through a partnership between the Inyo National Forest and the University of California School of Environmental Design, Berkeley.

July 17 marked the 100th anniversary of the Mt. Whitney trail on the Inyo National Forest with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at the newly built portal. It's been estimated that more than a million people have hiked the trail since it was completed by Gustav Marsh and his crew in 1904. Mt. Whitney is the tallest mountain in the lower 48 states. One of the most popular trails in the Forest Service wilderness system, more than 18,000 people hike up to the top each year.

To help celebrate the event, the public was invited to take part in several events during July 17th and 18th. Exhibits, presentations, special programs and demonstrations, seminars, guided walks and a movie festival were offered throughout the ceremonies sponsored by the Forest Service, the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce and the Lone Pine Film Festival.

Regional Forester, Jack Blackwell, was among the guest speakers at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. He talked about the grandeur of the area and the tremendous challenges faced in building the 6,305 foot trail. He noted, "The Forest Service is proud to have the stewardship responsibility for the Mt. Whitney Trail, and we are honored that you

have all gathered with us today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of its completion."

He concluded by saying, "In this 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, let's reflect on where we've been, and be thankful for the accomplishments that have brought us to today. We look forward to tomorrow, where through our partnerships and through our management of this special area, we can ensure that the resource and the opportunity it provides to people remains available and protected for future generations."

### Partnerships Build a New Trailhead for Mt. Whitney Trail

A special trailhead structure was unveiled at the Mt. Whitney 100th anniversary ceremonies built through a partnership between the Inyo National Forest and the University of California School of Environmental Design, Berkeley. The design is meant to emphasize the passing through a portal onto the Mt. Whitney Trail. New signs in the structure will emphasize the need for safety and caution when traveling the trail. As hikers leave the structure, they step over a rock line marking the start of their journey up the summit.

Two students worked with Kevin Klinefleter, South Zone Trail Coordinator and Hern Crane, South Zone Assistant Recreation Officer, to design the site including making the area fully accessible to all visitors. It features walls for seating and resting and will eventually have solar lighting for the structure. Kevin and his trial crew built the rock walls while the students built the trailhead structure. The project was funded by the Forest Service Recreation Fee Demonstration Project. Julie Molzahn, Inyo National Forest White Mountain/Mt. Whitney District Recreation Staff Officer was the project manager on the job.

## New Century of Service Seeks Volunteer Community Service Stories



Forest Service employees and retirees have a long history of being highly involved in the communities in which they live and work. In many of these communities, both small and large, Forest Service employees and retirees are the backbone of the volunteer labor force, serving as scout leaders, church leaders, volunteer firefighters, board members, PTA leaders, committee members, activity and event organizers, and in other community service roles. Particularly in smaller communities, Forest Service employees and retirees are often a disproportionately high percentage of the volunteer community.

Communities greatly value these "outside of work" contributions. **When employees transfer or retire, it's not unusual for the communities' praise of the employee's volunteer service to exceed their praise of the employee's official contributions.**

The Forest Service is identifying exemplary examples of employees' and retirees' commitment to community service. This is one of several projects commemorating the Forest Service's 100-year anniversary in 2005 called a New Century of Service.

So, if you have a noteworthy story you feel is worth telling about your volunteer activities, or the activities of another Forest Service retiree, the Forest Service would like to hear it. Please share it with Don Howlett, New Century of Service Community Service coordinator, on the Hiawatha National Forest, 2727 North Lincoln Rd., Escanaba, Michigan, 49829, or at [dhowlett@fs.fed.us](mailto:dhowlett@fs.fed.us).

## Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Winners

**Brenda Kendrix**



I am happy to announce the winners of the 2004 National Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Poster contest. The winners were chosen and the awards were given at the youth luncheon in Modesto, CA during the 2004 California Garden Club State Convention. California had three National winners along with the state winners!

The annual poster contest is open to all California students in grades 1-5 and is sponsored nationally by the National Council of State Garden Clubs and the USDA Forest Service. In California, the poster contest is sponsored by the California Garden Clubs, Inc. in cooperation with the

USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region.

The Smokey Bear poster contest encourages youth to understand the importance of preventing wildfires and the potential impacts that carelessly started wildfires can have on life, property and natural resources. Youth from across the state create their individual wildfire prevention concepts using Smokey Bear as a theme. **The Woodsy Owl poster contest teaches children about natural resource conservation. Woodsy's message challenges America's children to "Lend a Hand -- Care for the Land." Since 1971, Woodsy Owl has been**

helping teachers and parents inspire youth about being good stewards of the land.

### National Winners From California

- 1st Place: **Valerie Ng**, first grade, Burbank Valley Garden Club
- 3rd Place: **Katherine Thomas**, fourth grade, Ripon Garden Club
- 3rd Place: **Krystal Mettler**, fifth grade, San Clemente Garden Club

### State Winners

- **Valeria Ng**, first grade, Burbank Valley Garden Club
- **Kristofer Holliger**, second grade, Clear Lake Trowel & Trellis Garden Club
- **Christopher Roberts**, third grade, Joe Hamilton School
- **Katherine Thomas**, fourth grade, Ripon Garden Club
- **Krystal Mettler**, fifth grade, San Clemente Garden Club

### Smokey's 60th Birthday Celebrations Have Begun

**Cindy Thill**



Smokey celebrates his 60th with friends.

Sequoia National Forest has already begun celebrating Smokey's Birthday and his "60 Years of Vigilance!" The local Chamber of Commerce in Kernville, California, chose Smokey as their "Honorary Marshal" for this year's annual Whiskey Flat Days Celebration. The event took place over Presidents weekend holiday with over 40,000 people in attendance.

The Cannell Meadow Ranger District took the "Sweepstakes" trophy for their parade float entry that included the efforts of over 60 people, 2 months preparation and interagency cooperation between the U.S. Forest

Service, Kern County Fire Department and the Bureau of Land Management.

Leading the float entry was a banner announcing Smokey's status as "Honorary Marshal," followed by a 12-foot green and gold banner, wishing him a "Happy 60th Birthday." A color guard procession of flags, (United States of America, State of California, Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service) carried by uniformed personnel rounded out the entry.

Next came a "Birthday Party on wheels" with Smokey Bear sharing the limelight with friends Woodsy and

Sparkey the Fire Dog, District Ranger Dave Freeland, and wife Debbie, and a dozen Forest Service kids. Besides an oversized birthday cake with the number "60" on top, the float was decorated with colorful streamers, candles, balloons and fire prevention messages.

The float was followed by fire service engines from Kern County, BLM and U.S. Forest Service --- all displaying a fire prevention message. The parade entry ended with employees walking among the spectators, handing out Smokey Bear lapel pins.

Regional Office Fire Prevention Staff were instrumental in providing funds to ensure the success of the parade. The "Happy 60th Birthday, Smokey" canvas banner is available for loan throughout the region this year. If you are interested in using it for your event, please contact Cindy Thill, Public Affairs, Cannell Meadow Ranger District, (760) 376-3781, ext 625.

"Happy 60th Birthday, Smokey !!"

### **Alpine Tot's Meet Smokey**

Joan Wynn



Children learn about fire safety from the local Forest Service firefighters.

The Descanso Ranger District Laguna Hot Shots of the Cleveland National Forest started a new program for Tots 2 to 4 years of age. The program is Free and its goal is to get younger children active in sports and help them develop basic social and athletic skills and learn a little about how to prevent fires. Between April and June of this year Children under the age of five in the Alpine California area will learn the skills needed to play T-Ball and Soccer.

Smokey and local Forest Service fire fighters showed up to teach the team a little about Smokey and how to prevent fires. The District hopes to make this a regular program with children in the area, keeping

Smokey and the Alpine Ranger District involved for the new comers each year.

### **Kids in the Creek: Students Learn About Nature and Ecology**

Jeff Tunnell



As Smokey watches, a student shows how to properly put out a campfire.

Bringing the student out to the field is the best way to learn about the environment. The "Kids In The Creek" program has been doing just that for 4 years now. The Eastlake and Westlake Resource Conservation Districts of Lake County sponsored the program. Every year around Earthday, the Kids In The Creek program brings fourth, fifth and sixth graders out to the forest to learn about the interdependent nature of our environment. The program uses the Forest Service's Middle Creek Campground as an outdoor classroom. The kids visit 6 different stations, learning about nature as they go. Mendocino NF professionals staff many of the stations.

At one station, Mendocino Forest Fisheries Biologist Lee Morgan had

the kids thinking about water quality and the life cycles of fish, amphibians, and aquatic insects. Morgan explained that aquatic insects could function like a "smoke detector" for aquatic health, telling us whether things are OK in a creek or if there may be problems we need to pay attention to. He introduced some basic concepts about the food chain and specific insects to look for and then turned them loose for a 3-minute hunt in nearby Middle Creek. The kids were serious about their task even as they were exuberantly hunting under rocks. Many children said they planned to bring their family back and look at the insects in the stream in the future.

Forest Botanist Peter Nilles' station was centered on the subject of invasive weed species. He held up various species of plants and had the kids' guess where they originally came from. He discussed how various weed species travel from area to area and the ones that humans introduced on purpose. Peter was happy with the amount of attention the kids showed. "These kids are interested," he said, "even in invasive weeds."

At the final station, fire prevention tech. Jeff Tunnell, with the help of firefighters Joann Frioli, Adian Nagle and Shannon Banks, explained the role of fire in nature. With a backdrop of a recent prescribed burn visible on the hillside above the campground, the kids learned about good fires versus bad fires, prescription burning, and home fire safety. The firefighters showed off the tools of the trade when fighting a Wildland fire and the safety equipment used to protect their lives. After everyone had eaten lunch, Smokey Bear made an appearance to say hi to the kids and demonstrate the proper way to extinguish a campfire. The teachers were given packets of fire safety handouts to take back to the schools.

At another station, Mendocino Forest Hydrologist Bob Faust explained the ecology of water systems and the effects human activities have on our water quality. Besides talking about water, he also discussed the earth sciences of geology, soil and air. He had the kids look around them to observe vegetation growing on different soils. He also used a watering can and white paper to demonstrate erosion caused by raindrop splash on bare soil and the lack of splash on soil covered with sticks.

"What's really cool is the way our partners work to help us put this on," commented organizer Linda Juntunen. "We don't pay any of them for their services, their time is donated," Juntunen said. "Blaine Baker, District Ranger, from the Forest Service really goes out of his way to help us each year, and being able to use Middle Creek Campground is a major feature of the program. It's got plenty of room, is safe for the kids, and also has picnic and restroom facilities. Really a perfect place."

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### **2004 Women's Conference -- Save the Date!**

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The Region 5 2004 Women's Conference "Uniting for Success" will be held in Sacramento at the Sheraton on October 19-21. This is an excellent opportunity for women and men to learn new skills, explore issues of mutual concern, and build support groups. This year's Conference will feature inspiring speakers, new and exciting workshops, interesting panel discussions and plenty of time to network with fellow employees and regional leadership. Attendees will be able to choose from four tracks of workshops, including: Life Skills, Interpersonal Communication, Healthy Body/Healthy Mind and Education/Professional Development. Don't forget to mark your calendar for this important event! Keynote speakers include Robin Gerber who wrote "Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way;" Gloria Brown, new Forest Supervisor on the Los Padres National Forest; Michael Hingson, "Trust and Teamwork/Out of the Ashes," talks about his harrowing journey to safety on 9-11 and Elaine Whitefeather, reaffirming the need for personal self-care in her presentation "You Matter."

**How to Register:** Visit the Women's Conference website at: [www.fs.fed.us/r5/womens-conference/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/womens-conference/). This site will be updated as new information becomes available.

**Information Expo:** Employees can showcase their special programs and successes with displays, brochures

and meeting one-on-one with regional and national leadership in a relaxed, social environment. If you would like to participate in the Information Expo, please contact Roxane Scales at (707) 562-9010 or [rscales@fs.fed.us](mailto:rscales@fs.fed.us).



## History Corner

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### Contents

Engineer Forestry Company Formed

The Forest Ranger Who Could -- the Book

New Forest Reserves

Regional Forester Thanks Retiree for Living History Interview!

Forest Service Equipment Goes to War

Forest Service Bridges are Featured in a Movie

The Forest Ranger Receives a Compliment

Women to Protect the National Forests During War



## **Engineer Forestry Company Formed**

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*November 4, 1942, Ranger Digest*

Experienced woodsmen, millmen and foresters may apply for enlistment in the Army and assignment to the Engineer Forestry Company, by forwarding application listing education, experience, physical condition, and marital status to Captain John W. Barrett, Commanding Officer at Fort Lewis, Washington.

This company will function as a small but complete logging and milling operation and its equipment will consist of tractors, trucks, portable sawmill, blacksmith, carpentry, and other logging equipment, a demolition outfit, carbines, pistols and machine guns. The personnel will contain a full complement of mill and woods workers, cruisers, surveyors, scalers and mechanics.

## **The Forest Ranger Who Could -- the Book**

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The "rip-roaring" life of Forest Ranger, Buck Stonewall, during the formative years of the Forest Service is described in a book written by Forest Service retiree Gilbert Davies. "The Forest Ranger Who Could - Pioneer Custodians of the United States Forest Service 1905-1912" is his ninth of ten books about the Forest Service. The book is dedicated to "those early forest rangers whose indomitable spirit, passionate drive and unwavering conviction in their mission pioneered the way and laid the foundation for those who followed."

Davies' 30 year career in the Forest Service included involvement in dozens of wildfires, history projects, development of handbooks, forms and directives for fires, contracting and property. The founding and development of the Klamath National Forest Interpretive Museum was one of his many endeavors.

For more information about this book or any of his other books contact him at: [fligrig@c-zone.net](mailto:fligrig@c-zone.net).

## New Forest Reserves

Gerald W. Williams



Gifford Pinchot talking to President Theodore Roosevelt

In January 1907, there was considerable opposition to a Presidential proclamation that reserved thousands of acres of prime Douglas-fir timberlands in northern Washington State. The local press, chambers of commerce, and the Washington State congressional delegation protested that the reserve would cause undue hardship on residents by taking away homestead and "prime" agricultural lands (the land, in fact, was not agricultural, but heavily forested) as well as impeding the future development of the State.

After considerable pressure, Pinchot and President Roosevelt relented by, by saying that the reserve had been a "clerical error." Soon thereafter, Senator Charles W. Fulton of Oregon, who had been implicated in the land frauds in that State, introduced an amendment to the annual agricultural appropriations bill.

This amendment, the Fulton Amendment, prohibited the President from creating any additional forest reserves in the six Western States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado; took

away the President's power to proclaim reserves, established under the Forest Reserve (creative) Act of 1891; and gave Congress alone the authority to establish reserves. However, before this bill could be signed into law on March 7, 1907, Gifford Pinchot and the President came up with a plan.

On the eve of the bill's signing, Chief Forester Pinchot and his assistant Arthur C. Ringland used a heavy blue pencil to draw many new forest reserves on maps. As soon as the map was finished and a proclamation written, the President signed the paper to establish another forest reserve. On March 1st and 2nd, Roosevelt established 17 new or combined forest reserves containing over 16 million acres in these six Western States. These have since been referred to as the "Midnight Reserves."

The President defended his actions by claiming that he had saved vast tracts of timber from falling into the hands of the "lumber syndicate." The Fulton amendment, at the suggestion of Pinchot, also changed the name of the "forest reserves" to "national forests" to make it clear that the forests were to be used and not preserved.

## **Regional Forester Thanks Retiree for Living History Interview!**

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On July 1, 2005, the Forest Service will celebrate its 100th anniversary. In recognition of this event, Region 5 retirees have been asked by the Regional Forester to conduct an oral history program. Interviews with retired Forest Service people, including anecdotes, stories and memorable events, will bring a rich sense of history to our centennial celebration. Currently, close to 60 retirees have been interviewed. One of these was Joseph Flynn, former Forest Supervisor on the Eldorado and Lands Director in the Regional Office. Upon receiving a copy of the interview, Jack sent him the following thank-you note:

Dear Joe,

I don't think I have ever met you, but I received the copy of your living history interview that you sent. I wasn't able to read it all, but I did thumb through it and spent over an hour reading parts.

I want to thank you for all that you have done for the Forest Service. We are still a great outfit and part of the reason is because of the great lands we take care of and our proud past, built by people like you.

As we celebrate our 100th Anniversary next year, I hope you will join us when we have a local celebration near you. I am also eagerly waiting for the publication of our new book on the history of the Forest Service in Region 5.

Thanks again to you and all the Forest Service retirees!

Jack Blackwell, Regional Forester

## **Forest Service Equipment Goes to War**

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*October 28, 1942, Ranger Digest*

As one of its contributions to the War effort, Region 5 is undertaking a thorough housecleaning with a view not only to getting scrap metal back to the steel mills, but to get surplus usable equipment into the hands of War agencies which can make good use of it. Every unit in the Region, as well as the Supply Depot, is participating wholeheartedly in this undertaking.

Following the last war, the Region received considerable quantities of Army surplus equipment. Much of this has now become surplus to our needs. The Supply Depot recently arranged with the Army to take back any of this equipment for which it now has use, and as a result the Depot has already transferred to the Signal Corps approximately 2000 Brush Knives 600 Bolt Axes, 11,000 Oil Stones, 2000 wrenches, 500 Harness Punchos and a lesser quantity of miscellaneous hand tools, with more to follow. Most of this material will shortly be headed for the South Pacific.

When the surplus inventories now being made by the various field dunits have been reviewed by a Board of Survey, and the quantity of the surplus determined, it is likely that the Army will have immediate use for all that can be spared.

## Forest Service Bridges are Featured in a Movie

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The suspension bridge on the Stanislaus National Forest was used in the movie "For Whom the Bell Tolls."

*December 16, 1942, Ranger Digest*

A bridge over a Spanish mountain gorge is a focal point in Ernest Hemingway's story, "For Whom the Bell Tolls." When the movie producer came to film the book he selected the 105 suspension bridge on the road from Kennedy Meadows to the Relief Dam on the headwaters of the Stanislaus River in that national forest. It is a winding track along cliffs and among huge granite boulders and does look like what the author described. According to the story, tanks and armored trucks pass over this bridge, and in the film it is Gary Cooper as the hero, Robert Jordan, who swings above the torrent as he sets the demolition charges while the enemy thunders towards him.

As it was impossible to drive tanks and armored cars across this light structure it was only good for long shots, so another had to be found for close-ups. For this they selected the Lumsden Bridge, an 85 foot cord steel truss with a beam approach, an entirely different looking affair and on the main Tuolumne River, many miles away from Relief, but with the rest of the qualifications required by the plot for close-ups and demolition.

Just how the technicians will make the Relief suspension near the Sierra summit look like the Lumsdon steel truss in the foothills of another river drainage is stheir secret. John Lawrence, who was in charge of construction, says that both of these bridges were built by CCC labor.

The lightning shattered tree described in the novel was provided by a cooperative thunder storm while the company was on location; but not until after a healthy pine had been disguised as a lightning struck snag by the makeup man.

## The Forest Ranger Receives a Compliment

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**Edward P. Ancona**



*(Appeared in the 1919 Ranger Digest, from the December 1919 "The Ladies' Home Journal")*

Recognizing that the male of the human species when he is off alone and away from all possible assistance on the part of the female is prone to laxity in person and surrounding, the United States Forest Service has in its existence of the last twenty years maintained the policy of repeatedly calling the individual forest ranger's attention to rules of neatness, order and sanitation governing his person, outfit and more especially his ranger station. Alone much of the time in wild, isolated region, often living the life of a pioneer far from the means of procuring

the barest essentials of life, his cabin, a tiny hut usually off the beaten lines of travel and visited only by the occasional sheep herder or cattlemen, the forest ranger can scarcely be expected to live other than a primitive way.

Because he is often the only representative of the Government in a vast area; because from the pole in front of his cabin every day from sunrise to sunset flies the flag that is the emblem of that Government; and because his person and his place of transacting business-his home-are object lessons to people often with little or no idea of order or neatness in their lives, his superiors have kept high ideals in this respect before him.

Uniformly this policy of the Service has resulted in a high standard of living conditions at its various ranger stations, of which there are several thousand scattered throughout the Western mountain region. There are individual cases where pressure is necessary from time to time to bring a man, usually a newcomer, up to the mark.

Recently a party of tourists was motoring along a forest road in a lonely region not far from the Grand Canon (sic) in Arizona. The big car was passing a tiny brown cabin, trimmed neatly in white with a green roof, set in a clump of juniper and pine near the road, when one of the party pointed to the cabin and explained to a large, heavy-set man at his side: "One of our ranger stations."

"Fine!" the man returned. "Suppose we stretch our legs a bit and go over and look around."

On his order the car stopped and the party, consisting of four men and several women, passed through the two tall posts at the gateway, supporting the neatly painted sign bearing the name of a national forest and of this particular ranger station. The group stopped on the porch and one of the men, who was dressed in a uniform of forest green opened the door of the house with a master key. There was no sign of anyone about the house, and the forest officer surmised that the ranger was out on his district, riding the range.

It must be admitted that he felt a bit of misgiving in displaying to his guests one of the stations under his charge, for the standard by which they would judge cleanliness and neatness would be rather severe on even his best-kept station. However, he threw open the door and the party entered. Absolute order, immaculate cleanliness, freshness of woodwork and furnishings, simple though they all were, greeted the eyes of the party.

The office was in order; the plain pine table, with its few papers and equipment businesslike, the filing equipment in place, the map-covered walls indicating the closest utilization of all the limited space. The little bedroom was a place fit for the most refined women to sleep in, even although its simple furnishing spoke plainly of a man's place of rest. The third and last room, the kitchen, was as clean as a particular woman would desire-not even an unwashed dish in sight.

The forest service man breathed a quiet sigh of relief, and a gleam of satisfaction entered his eye.

Late that day, when the sun was sinking and only a desert afterglow lit up the ranger-station grounds, a tired man threw himself wearily from his horse at the corral gate. His horse watered and rubbed down and then turned out to pasture, the ranger reached the back door of his cabin, entered and started his preparations for supper.

There was no indication of the unexpected visit his cabin had been given in his absence. But as he turned to his kitchen table his eye caught sight of two white bits of cardboard lying there. Surprised, he carried them to the door and in the last light of the dying day he read them.

The first had written across it: "I am sorry I missed seeing you. I congratulate you on the immaculate condition of your station." Embossed on the card was the name "David F. Houston", and in the corner "The Secretary of Agriculture."

The second card had written on it: "I, too, congratulate you on the fine appearance of your cabin." Printed on the card was "Dr. Hans Sulzer," and in the corner was "Ambassador from Switzerland."

### **Women to Protect the National Forests During War**

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*May 19, 1943, Ranger Digest*

Two hundred and forty-six women have been hired to fill forest fire protection positions next summer on the National Forests in Oregon and Washington. The Forest Rangers report that all available positions adapted to women now have been filled, mostly by women living in or near the forests. **School teachers and wives of men in the military services have been employed in large numbers.** The women will be stationed on lookouts to detect fires, or will patrol campgrounds, register forest visitors, drive fire trucks, serve as alternate fire dispatchers, cook for fire crews, attend the telephone switchboard and do clerical work in rangers' office. One fortunate Forest Ranger has reported that he has employed a versatile young woman who can handle his pack string of mules, drive the fire truck, operate a fire pump, write shorthand and type his official letters.

## Issues Update

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### A SUMMARY OF ISSUES FACING THE REGION

**IT Study**  
**Fleet and Roads Maintenance**  
**Financial Management**  
**Career Transition Workshops Offered**  
**Open Houses for Forest Plans**  
**Tribal Forest Protection Act**  
**New Reservation Service**  
**Grants Awarded to Urban Forests**  
**Roadless Area Proposal**  
**Centennial Congress Forum**  
**The Deep Fire, Sequoia National Forest**

#### **IT Study**

The Forest Service's first national, full competitive sourcing study resulted in selection of its internally redesigned Information Technology (IT) organization to perform agency IT infrastructure work. The decision was announced July 27 by Chris Pyron, the agency's source selection official and deputy director of Business Operations.

During the announcement it was disclosed that the enterprise-wide MEO (most efficient organization) will take a new name, the Information Solutions Organization or ISO. The Washington Office is beginning the work to staff the new organization, which calls for 538 positions. Work has also begun to create the Continuing Government Activity organization (CGA), about 100 positions. The CGA is the organization that does IRM work not covered in the study and manages the ISO contract. The IT Transition and Implementation Team has posted (on the intranet) a series of briefing documents regarding the proposed organization, including the ISO at: [fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/irm/](http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/irm/).

Additional information on the process, as well as questions and answers can be found at the Competitive Sourcing IT Study Announcement website at: [fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/ITStudyAnnouncement/](http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/ITStudyAnnouncement/). There is also an IT Study Communications Hotline: (703) 605-5374.

#### **Fleet and Roads Maintenance**

The Region started implementing the Pre-WRAPs plan for Roads and Fleet on July 7, 2004. Thirty-seven of the 97 employees have been placed in jobs. There are two steps left in the process and 60 people still in need of placement. Transfers of station may be required with some of the matches made in these last steps of the process.

There are about 75 more vacant positions, but many of these are shorter tours or lesser grades than some of the positions the unplaced affected employees now hold. (The fact that many of the new positions are shorter tours is a major reason why there are more new vacant positions than unplaced affected employees). There are also some higher graded positions for which the unplaced affected employees will need to compete if they are interested.

The Region is diligently working to make certain that affected employees have as many options available to them as possible so they can make the best choice. The Region has gotten approval from the Washington Office for buy-outs and early-outs, which are narrowly focused for the need, and are coordinating the availability of those with the outcomes of the pre-WRAPS process so the timing of those choices does not become a barrier.

### **Financial Management**

Financial Management/Business Process Reengineering. The decision to centralize its offices in Albuquerque has been made. Several sites were looked at and specifications should be completed by next week. It is possible that the transition will be made through a "transfer of function." If so, RIF will not be used initially to place employees. The design phase should be complete by late September or early October of this year.

### **Career Transition Workshops Offered**

The Region 5 Financial Management, Human Resources and Program Development and Budget staffs are hosting two 2004 Career Transition Workshops. The first of these was held in Sacramento August 23-27 and the second is scheduled for November 15-19 in southern California. The purpose of the workshops is to provide support and assistance to employees in dealing with career options in program areas currently under study. Classes include: Retirement for both CSRS and FERS, Financial Planning, Managing Change and Career Transitions, Career Decision Making, RIF/WRAPS/Early-out and Buy-out. For more information, contact Mary Weiss at 707-562-8745.

### **Open Houses for Forest Plans**

The Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino and Cleveland National Forests released their draft land management plan revisions for public comments. The draft documents include one Draft Environmental Impact Statement and a separate plan for each Forest. On May 10 the Forests began hosting a total of 23 open houses in communities near the Forests to acquaint people with the documents and provide information about the comment process. The comment period closed August 11. In addition to the open houses, the forests are providing an innovative web-based public comment opportunity that allows the public to add comments directly into an electronic version of the documents.

### **Tribal Forest Protection Act**

President Signs Tribal Forest Protection Act Into Law: On July 20, President Bush signed the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 into law. House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo (R-CA) introduced the legislation in the House in February. The House unanimously approved the Act on June 21st.

The Act establishes a process for tribes to work with federal agencies to perform hazardous fuel reduction and forest health projects on federal lands adjacent to tribal lands in order to prevent catastrophic wildfire.

In the summer of 2003, nearly 20 Indian reservations in the country were devastated by wildfire that came from adjacent federal lands. Over half occurred in Southern California where more than 30,000 acres and 130 homes were consumed.

The bill follows the bipartisan work on the Healthy Forests Restoration Act signed into law last year. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) worked closely with Pombo on the legislation.

### **New Reservation Service**

An interagency federal recreation information and reservation service contract was awarded on August 9 by the USDA to the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS).

The new service is part of the President's E-Gov Recreation One-Stop Initiative and will offer information on recreation areas, facilities and opportunities for more than 57,000 campgrounds, cabins, parks, and tours of national sites, historic homes and caves. Participating agencies include the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers. More than 50 percent of reservations are now made by Internet access. The website address is: [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

### **Grants Awarded to Urban Forests**

More than \$1.1 million awarded for Urban and Community Forestry Grants. On June 15, Secretary Veneman announced \$1,155,756 in federal grants to 14 organizations for urban and community forests throughout the country. The organizations will match those funds with an additional \$1,666,135 for research and education projects for urban forests. According to the Secretary, "These grants will help fund programs to improve the quality of the environment and the quality of life in our urban communities. They will also help promote the ecological, economic, and social values of healthy urban and community forests."

### **Roadless Area Proposal**

On July 12, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announced the reinstatement of an interim directive to conserve roadless areas and proposed a new rule that continues the cooperative conservation of roadless areas in national forests and grasslands.

The proposed rule established a process for governors to work with the Forest Service to develop locally-supported rules for conserving roadless areas in their states. While there are 39 states that have inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands within their boundaries, just 12 states contain 56.6 million acres, or 97 percent, of all roadless areas in the country. These include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on July 16 and is available on the Washington Office website at: [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us). There is a 60-day public comment period. Written comments may be mailed to: Content Analysis Team, ATTN: Roadless State Petitions, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 22190, Salt Lake City, UT, 84122 or faxed to (801) 517-1014, e-mailed to [statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us](mailto:statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us). Comments also may be submitted from [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). The Forest Service will issue a final rule after it evaluates public comments.

### **Centennial Congress Forum**

To kick off our 100th anniversary, a Centennial Congress will be held in Washington, D.C. on January 4-6, 2005. The Congress will provide a contemporary discussion about the past, present and future of the Forest Service. Participants will include congressional leaders, others in government, public interests, academicians and our staff. In advance of the January 2005 Centennial Congress, Forest Service regions, research stations and areas are working together to organize regional centennial forums around the country. Each regional forum will review the agency's history and will discuss current and future challenges and opportunities for the agency. The highlights from each regional forum will be presented at the Centennial Congress.

The Pacific Southwest Region and the Pacific Southwest Research Station will host the centennial forum at the Doubletree Hotel Sacramento located at 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA.

The forum will begin by reviewing the history, milestones, and accomplishments of the agency and region during the last 100 years. The remainder of the forum will focus on discussing how we might work together to find cooperative solutions for our key challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for you and others to offer your thoughts about our work in the coming years. An outline for the program is attached. Additional information is available on line at [www.fs.fed.us/psw/centennial/](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/centennial/)

For more information see the Centennial Congress website at: [www.natlforests.org/centennial](http://www.natlforests.org/centennial). For more information about other Centennial events, see the Centennial website at: [www.fs.fed.us/centennial/](http://www.fs.fed.us/centennial/).

### **The Deep Fire, Sequoia National Forest**

On August 17, the Deep Fire on the Sequoia National Forest was contained at 3,143 acres. Concerns were extremely high about this fire from the time it started on August 12. It threatened a number of communities and had the potential to become very big and to burn through groves of Giant Sequoia located in the Mountain Home State, the Sequoia National Monument and in Balch County Park (Tulare County).

Contingency plans were developed to underburn the Giant Sequoia groves should the fire move past defensive lines established further downslope from the groves. It was a risky strategy but better than allowing the uncontrolled Deep Fire to move through them. Fortunately, the contingency plans did not have to be used. The fire was fought under a unified Forest Service-California Department of Forestry command. They were successful in keeping the fire relatively small and out of the Sequoia groves through exceptional work by firefighters and by heavily committing resources.

A key factor in the successful effort was the ability of the Sequoia National Forest to take advantage of several strategic fuel treatments the Forest had done in 1999, 2000, and 2001 with just this situation in mind. The Coffee prescribed burn project of 1999 and 2000 and the Slick Rock thinning/prescribed burn project of 2000 and 2001 provided essential strategic points from which firefighters could widen the containment lines that eventually contained the fire. This is an outstanding example of the value of strategically placed fuel reduction projects.