

OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

Cascade Lookout

FREE!



Cascade Lookout 2008

A Publication of the U.S. Forest Service

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Summit of Stevens Pass Highway circa 1926

MESSAGE FROM THE FOREST SUPERVISOR



BECKI LOCKETT HEATH

1908 to 2008... a one hundred year span in which so much has occurred in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Back in 1908 Theodore Roosevelt signed a proclamation creating the Wenatchee National Forest, and 3 years later, in 1911, President William Taft signed another proclamation creating the Okanogan National Forest.

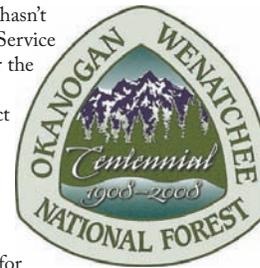
It is with great pleasure and pride that we will be celebrating the centennial for both Forests this year. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many accomplishments, changes, and growth that have occurred here during the past 100 years.

The original intent of national forest reserves was to improve, protect and conserve vast public lands, secure favorable water flows, and provide a continuous supply of timber. Today, national forest lands provide those same values as well as responding to the challenges of a more complex and diverse society. Expectations range from fish and wildlife habitat, ecosystem services such as clean water, air, and carbon storage, fuel reduction to prevent catastrophic wildfire in and around communities, and a wide range of recreation opportunities.

One thing that hasn't changed is Forest Service employee's love for the land. The desire to manage and protect it is as strong now as it was in 1908 when the Forest was established.

This centennial year is a big event for us! For the past 100 years there has been a Forest Service presence in most communities in north central Washington. Our centennial gives us a chance to celebrate that history, and look forward to the future of National Forests in our communities in the next century.

Visit the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest this summer. Love it, enjoy it and learn about its history. Remember to keep it alive and beautiful for those who will cherish these lands in the next 100 years. ■



CHAMPIONS FOR THE CASCADE LOOKOUT

BY ROBIN DEMARCO



Sonny O'Neal



Paul Hart

This is the 11th edition of the Cascade Lookout—an annual newspaper written and produced by employees of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Over the years, two individuals have been instrumental in the publication of this unique forest paper—former Forest Supervisor Sonny J. O'Neal, who passed away in December 2007, and former Public Affairs Group Leader Paul R. Hart, who retired in January 2008.

Sonny O'Neal, Forest Supervisor for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest from 1987 through 2003, was a huge proponent for creating a forest newspaper that offered the public an opportunity to learn more about the Forest through the stories and articles contained in the paper. In the first edition of the Cascade Lookout in 1998, O'Neal said, "The Wenatchee Forest has many stories to share with you, the public owners of the National Forest. Through these pages, you will learn of our efforts to protect the health and sustainability

of forest ecosystems, providing details on projects, programs, and opportunities of interest to all our visitors. Within these pages, you will get a glimpse of the diversity and beauty of your National Forest."

Paul Hart, Public Affairs Group Leader for 30 years, was the most vocal cheerleader for the production of the Cascade Lookout. Over the years, articles have been written by a myriad of forest employees, but the majority of the articles came from the Forest Public Affairs team, a team that Hart led, mentored, encouraged, and taught. Hart's unwavering support, advice, and writing and editing skills helped make the Cascade Lookout the successful paper that it is today! Hart's public affairs legacy will live on through all future editions of the Cascade Lookout.

It is with fondness and sweet remembrances that we dedicate this edition of the Cascade Lookout newspaper to two great men—Sonny J. O'Neal and Paul R. Hart. We thank them for their years of support! ■

PROGRESS CONTINUES ON REVISED FOREST PLANS

PUBLIC ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

BY DEBORAH KELLY

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Revision efforts continue on the Forest Plans that guide management of the Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville National Forests. Release of a draft revised plan is targeted for fall 2008.

A land and resource management plan provides overarching guidance for management of each national forest, establishes the desired condition for the land and resources, and sets general management direction.

The current Forest Plans for these National Forests were implemented in 1990. By law, Forest Plans must be updated every 10-15 years. Revision of Forest Plans is necessary to account for social, economic, and ecological changes which have occurred over the life of the plan.

"Forest planning is very similar to the concept of zoning a city or county for certain uses such as residential, light commercial business, or heavy industry," said Margaret Hartzell, Plan Revision Team Leader. "A forest plan doesn't make site specific decisions, such as road or trail closures, or approve timber sales. However, a plan will determine in general where such activities are appropriate."

"Forest plans also establish long-range forest management goals and objectives that attempt to strike a balance between the public's often conflicting need for services, products, and uses, while

taking into account the physical and biological capability of the land," Hartzell added.

To learn what has transpired with the planning effort to date, check out the project website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/forest-plan. Meeting notes and comments from collaboration and public meetings, maps, and resource analysis information are posted as various planning steps are completed.

People are always welcome to contribute their ideas on how Forest Plans should be updated, or on how national forests should be managed. Since a draft plan for the three national forests is expected to be released by the end of 2008, there's still time to share your ideas. When the draft is released, specific feedback on the draft plan will be particularly helpful.

A schedule for public meetings will be announced after the draft is released. Besides public meetings, you may participate anytime by writing to us at the address to the left, e-mailing us your comments, or by giving us a call. ■



Many of the developed recreation sites on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest were built more than 50 years ago and are showing their age. Over the years, some of these sites have accrued a maintenance backlog (also known as deferred maintenance) and are in disrepair.

Along with aging facilities, visitor preferences and demographics have changed. A number of recreation sites provide facilities or services that no longer meet visitor expectations or are not suited for projected future recreation demand.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is reviewing over 360 developed recreation sites (campgrounds, trailheads, cabins, sno-parks, etc.) through a national process called "Recreation Facility Analysis" (formerly titled Recreation Site Facility Master Planning). Every National Forest in the nation is undergoing this process.

Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA) has three main goals:

1. Provide recreation opportunities best suited for the National Forest
2. Operate and maintain recreation sites to meet national quality standards
3. Reduce recreation site deferred maintenance backlog

The outcome of RFA is a 5-Year Proposed Program of Work with a list of prioritized actions to more effectively manage recreation sites on the forest. Some of these prioritized actions include increasing/improving services at 24 sites, adding

fees at 6 sites, increasing fees at 55 sites, replacing/repairing facilities to reduce the maintenance backlog at 78 sites, and not making any changes at 173 developed recreation sites.

Through implementation of the Proposed Program of Work, the Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest will provide recreation opportunities consistent with the Forest Recreation Niche¹, operate a financially sustainable developed recreation program to national quality standards, eliminate deferred maintenance at recreation sites by up to 30%, and improve visitor satisfaction.

The Forest Service places a high priority on providing quality recreation opportunities. As demographics change and new challenges are presented, we must be responsive and make the appropriate recreation services and facilities available to the public.

RFA is one of the tools that, with the help of the public, communities and private sector, will allow us to be fiscally responsible and continue to provide outstanding recreation opportunities.

Public input is important and is a critical part of the Recreation Facility Analysis process. We have created an email solely for public input and comments related to RFA: okawen_rsfmp@fs.fed.us

The results of the analysis are available and we invite public dialogue on implementing and improving it. Please visit the following link to learn more and keep updated about the RFA process: www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/rfa

The webpage will provide you with more information about the process and its outcomes, including a description of the Forest Recreation Niche. ■

RECREATION FACILITY ANALYSIS

Will Your Favorite Recreation Site Change?

BY AMY TINDERHOLT AND SHANNON O'BRIEN



1 - A niche describes how an organism or population responds to the distribution of resources and competitors. This niche provides the vision of what the Forest is most capable of providing in the form of recreation settings and experiences.

Once a plant flowers and goes to seed it faces a problem—how to get those seeds away from itself and planted in an unoccupied piece of ground?

Plants evolved different strategies to solve this problem. Some produce tiny lightweight seeds with hairs that catch the wind, others produce sturdy seeds with bristly hairs that catch on animal fur or a boot lace. Some are tasty to birds, animals or people. Many seeds can be transported in tire or boot treads and on the undercarriages of vehicles. Weeds are especially good at taking advantage of travelers, and at being the first to occupy newly disturbed ground.

A weed is basically any plant growing where it is not wanted. Many of our weeds came from Europe and Asia. Some were purposely carried over because of their value as ornamentals, medicine, or food. Others were accidentally transported. Once here, the weeds found similar growing conditions to their home ecosystems, but without the plant competitors and insect predators that kept their populations in balance. These non-native plants are able to invade native plant communities and are often better colonizers of disturbed soil than our native species.

Weeds have a negative effect on many aspects of the forest. Invasive weeds affect soil and water quality, reduce wildlife habitat by replacing native food plants and reducing the diversity of plants available, and impact how the forest looks—a meadow with a diverse array of wildflowers is far more beautiful and interesting than a disturbed area dominated by a single weed species.

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest uses a multi-pronged approach, called Integrated Weed Management, to prevent and control the spread of weeds on Forest land. Integrated Weed Management uses a combination of prevention and all the available treatment methods (herbicide, manual pulling, mechanical removal, planting competitive plants, and biocontrols—the use of insects to remove unwanted weeds) to protect native plant communities.

Treating weeds is expensive and time-consuming, for both public and private land owners. It may take several years to eradicate a weed infestation that became established in a single year. Therefore, it is critical to prevent weeds from becoming established.

Forest Service weed prevention measures include new guidelines for livestock feed in Wilderness as weed seeds can be introduced into the Wilderness in livestock manure or feed. Only commercially processed feed (pellets, steamed, or rolled oats) and State/County certified weed-free feed is allowed within Wilderness areas and at Wilderness trailheads.

Forest Service projects are designed to minimize ground disturbance. Gravel and fill used on Forest Service roads must be from weed free sources. Weeds are a consideration even during a wildfire—machinery must be washed before being used on the fire, fire hose used in weed infested areas is cleaned, and fire crews are briefed about weed concerns and prevention strategies.

Visitors can help prevent weeds from becoming established by avoiding disturbing new ground (staying on established roads or trails), by cleaning boots, dogs, and horses, and washing vehicle undercarriages before leaving home.

Early detection of weed infestations is also a key component of Integrated Weed Management. It is far easier to eradicate two plants rather than 2,000. Learn to identify noxious weeds and try to keep your own properties weed free. If you find a few weeds without flowers or seeds, pull them and leave them where found.

Forest visitors can help by learning to identify both native plants and weeds. For information about noxious weeds in Washington State go to the state Department of Agriculture website at www.agr.wa.gov. Also, check out the Forest Service's Celebrating Wildflowers website www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers, an excellent source of information about native plants and events. ■

WEEDS -UNWANTED, UNLOVED AND UNWELCOME!

BY BRIGITTE RANNE



Knapweed

FOREST NEWS AND INFORMATION

WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

HISTORIC TIMELINE

BY POWYS GADD

Before becoming the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, the names and locations of the national forests in this area evolved over time. On these two pages are historic timelines of the changes that occurred on each of these great forests.



Hal Sylvester and his wife Alice, 1931



Forest Headquarters in Leavenworth, 1908

1908

Wenatchee National Forest was established with the headquarters in Leavenworth

A.H. Sylvester, first Forest Supervisor (earned \$1800-\$2500/year)

Nearly 150,000 sheep grazed the Forest

8 Ranger Districts -
Chiwaukum, Chumstick, Cle Elum, Easton, Icicle, Lake Wenatchee, Liberty, and Peshastin

1909

60 percent of the sheep in Washington State graze on the forest

1910

Entiat watershed transferred to the Chelan National Forest

1913

7 Ranger Districts -
Chiwaukum, Chumstick, Cle Elum, Easton, Icicle, Peshastin, Lake Wenatchee, and Liberty



Fleet of GMC trucks on way to Wenatchee

1914

A whopping \$250 spent on Road Improvement and Construction

1920

Forest headquarters moved from Leavenworth to Wenatchee

Entiat watershed returned to the Wenatchee National Forest from the Chelan National Forest

6 Ranger Districts -
Cashmere, Chiwaukum, Easton, Entiat, Leavenworth, Lake Wenatchee

1928

39 permanent employees



Chelan Ranger Station, 1941

1933

Taneum and Manastash portions of the Rainier National Forest are added to the Wenatchee National Forest

1933-1941

Fifteen Civilian Conservation Corps Camps on the Forest

1955

Chelan Ranger District becomes part of the Wenatchee National Forest

1964

Goat Rocks Wilderness and the Glacier Peak Wilderness are established

1974

Naches and Tieton Ranger Districts are transferred from the Snoqualmie National Forest to the Wenatchee National Forest



Dirtyface Lookout near Lake Wenatchee, 1943

1976

Alpine Lakes Wilderness is established

1981

7 Ranger Districts -
Chelan, Cle Elum, Ellensburg, Entiat, Lake Wenatchee, Leavenworth, and Naches

1984

William O. Douglas Wilderness, Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness, Norse Peak Wilderness, and the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness are established

2000

Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests are administratively combined as the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. The geographic boundaries of each forest remain unchanged, and the Forest Headquarters remains in Wenatchee.

8 Ranger Districts -

Chelan, Cle Elum, Entiat, Leavenworth, Lake Wenatchee, Naches, Tonasket, and Methow Valley; plus the Okanogan Valley Office

Lake Wenatchee and Leavenworth Ranger Districts are administratively combined

2006

Lake Wenatchee and Leavenworth Ranger Districts are renamed Wenatchee River Ranger District

2007

Administrative name changed to Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

2008

450 permanent employees (as combined forests)

OKANOGAN NATIONAL FOREST

1908

Chelan National Forest is established with headquarters in Chelan. The Forest extends from Cascade Crest to Okanogan River and from Canadian border to divide between Chelan and Entiat watersheds.

1911

Okanogan National Forest is formed from Okanogan County portion of Chelan National Forest with headquarters in Okanogan

First Ranger Districts are Conconully and Twisp

1911-1915

6 Ranger Districts - Conconully, Loomis, Squaw Creek, Sweat Creek, Twisp, and Winthrop



Eightmile Guard Station

1920

Okanogan National Forest is transferred to the Chelan National Forest. The name "Okanogan" is discontinued.

7 Ranger Districts - Chelan, Loomis, Squaw Creek, Stehekin, Sweat Creek, Twisp, and Winthrop

1925

Portions of Loomis and Sweat Creek Ranger Districts are transferred to the State for a state forest (Loomis)

1930

Squaw Creek Ranger District is absorbed by Twisp Ranger District

1930's

8 Civilian Conservation Corps Camps



Salmon Meadows Lodge

1936

The Pasayten Ranger District is created from a portion of the Winthrop Ranger District

1940

Ranger District offices at Chelan, Conconully, Early Winters, Stehekin, Twisp, and Winthrop

1942

Tonasket Ranger District is transferred to Chelan National Forest from Colville National Forest

1944

Conconully Ranger District becomes Okanogan Ranger District with headquarters in Okanogan

1955

Chelan National Forest is renamed the Okanogan National Forest

Okanogan Ranger District is renamed Conconully Ranger District to avoid confusion with Forest name change

5 Ranger Districts - Conconully, Pasayten, Tonasket, Twisp, and Winthrop

Chelan Ranger District is transferred to Wenatchee National Forest

1966

The Pasayten Ranger District is absorbed by Winthrop Ranger District

The Aerial Project at Twisp becomes the North Cascades Smoke Jumper Base, a separate administrative unit of the Forest

1968

Pasayten Wilderness established by Congress; adds 200,000 acres to Okanogan National Forest

1978

Okanogan National Forest Headquarters moved from downtown Okanogan to State Highway 20

1982

Conconully Ranger District is absorbed by Tonasket Ranger District

1984

Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness is established on Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests

1994

Twisp and Winthrop Districts are combined to become Methow Valley Ranger District

2000

Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests are administratively combined as the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. The geographic boundaries of each forest remain unchanged, and the Forest Headquarters remains in Wenatchee.

7 Ranger Districts - Chelan, Cle Elum, Entiat, Leavenworth-Lake Wenatchee, Naches, Tonasket and Methow Valley; plus Okanogan Valley Office

2006

Combined Leavenworth and Lake Wenatchee Districts renamed Wenatchee River Ranger District

2007

Administrative name changed to Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

2008

450 permanent employees (as combined forests)

HISTORIC TIMELINE

BY POWYS GADD



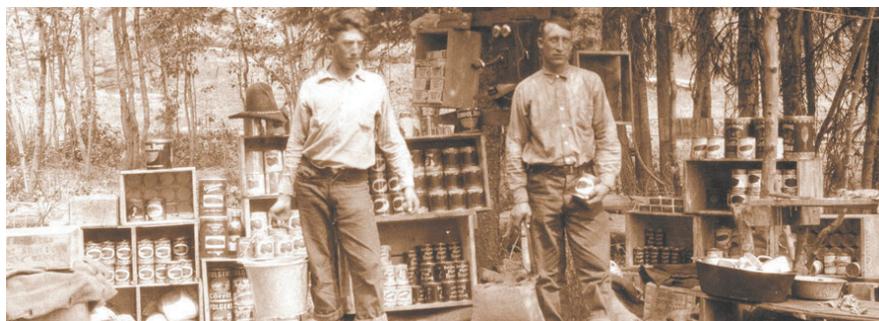
Smokejumper Francis Lufkin, 1939



Mt. Hull lookout, 1910



Ranger doing paperwork



Fire Camp at Crawfish Lake, 1926

\$4.9 MILLION WORTH OF FOREST IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ACCOMPLISHED

BY DEBBIE KELLY



Northwest Youth Corps team constructed rail fencing to protect riparian area at a campground on Wenatchee River

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2002 Title II Program was enacted to provide assistance to rural counties affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. Traditionally, these counties relied on a share of receipts from timber harvests to supplement local funding for school systems and roads.

During the 6 years the program was implemented (and the one additional year it was extended), over \$4.93 million dollars have been distributed to 140 projects that benefit forest resources and recreational opportunities in North Central Washington counties in and adjacent to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Projects with high local support and benefits to local communities, that were previously unfunded, have become realities due to this funding.

The Title II Program funded the implementation of many watershed improvement projects, such as road and sediment stabilization, and culvert and fish passage improvements. It has also helped to leverage many local partners in projects that benefit natural resources within and adjacent to the National Forest, including several inter-agency noxious weed control projects. Other projects, such as trail work accomplished by Northwest Youth Corps, Okanogan Trails Coalition, and the Bureau of Land Management, have helped to strengthened partnerships with these key groups and enhance recreation opportunities for visitors throughout the region.

The projects noted to the right provide a snapshot of the wide variety and types of forest improvement projects and partnerships that have been supported by the Title II Program on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest since 2002.

Little Wenatchee Trail Relocation project—\$25,000. Northwest Youth Corps youth crews completed relocation and rehabilitation work on seven heavily eroded sections of trail resulting in improved access for 1,300 annual visitors.

Old Powerhouse Site Toilet Replacement project—\$35,400. This project, located on the Wenatchee River Ranger District, greatly improved public toilet facilities at a heavily used day-use recreation area along State Highway 2.

Friends of the Trail Trash, Dump and Vehicle Clean-up—\$23,600. This grassroots group developed a partnership with the Cle Elum Ranger District to clean up large illegal dump areas. This encouraged community stewardship, enhanced recreation opportunities, and improved water quality.

Williams Creek Camp Area Improvements—\$49,970. The Bureau of Land Management, in partnership with Cle Elum Ranger District, installed permanent toilet facilities in heavily used off-highway vehicle and dispersed camping areas adjacent to national forest trailheads.

Washington State Integrated Noxious Weed Invasive Species Project—\$40,000. Washington State University Cooperative Extension received several years of funding for this four-county-wide project, also known as the Quad County Bioagent Control Project, which placed environmentally-friendly insects in areas throughout North Central Washington to control noxious weeds.

Loup Loup Road Resurface—\$51,625. Improvements to the road, located on the Methow Valley Ranger District, benefited both summer access to camping areas and trails, and winter recreation access to a developed ski area and Sno-Park.

Hangman Flat and Tungsten Creek Trail Projects—\$9,514. Okanogan County Trails Coalition was awarded the money to complete this project. The money provided supplies and reimbursement for costs incurred driving to and from the project. All labor was provided by volunteers.

WHAT'S KILLING TREES ON THE FOREST?

BY JIM HADFIELD



Grand firs killed by root disease and bark beetles.

When you drive through the forest you are likely to see areas of dead and dying trees. No, the forests are not dying, but as you look around you will see many dead trees.

So, what is killing trees in the Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest? The answer includes an amazingly long list of causes.

Insects kill lots of trees. Bark beetles kill thousands of trees every year. All tree species are affected, but pines experience the largest losses. Bark beetles kill trees by mining under the bark then feeding on the sugary tissues and disrupting the flow of water and food materials. Defoliating insects, such as western spruce budworm, eat foliage which kills many trees. Sucking insects kill trees by inserting their mouthparts into stems and branches, injecting toxins, then sucking out sap. Other insects kill trees by chewing on twigs, branches, and roots.

Diseases kill large numbers of trees. Root diseases caused by fungi are common in many parts of the forests. They kill trees by rotting and killing roots. Dwarf mistletoes slowly deform and kill trees, and are especially common in Douglas-fir and western larch stands. Stem decay fungi contribute to tree death by rotting so much wood the affected stems break due to lack of structural support. Canker fungi kill trees by killing portions of the stems. Other diseases cause tree death by killing foliage and twigs.

In most years many trees are killed by fires.

Weather is responsible for killing trees. Lightning, wind, snow, ice, drought, and flooding all kill trees. Trees are also killed by avalanches.

Many trees are killed by animals. Porcupines, bears, squirrels, gophers, rabbits, elk, deer, mice, moose, cows, sapsuckers, and beavers all kill trees.

People kill trees. Trees are killed in campgrounds when people bash into them, chop them, scorch them with lanterns, wrap rope and wire around them, drive spikes or nails into them, and drive over their roots. Trees can also be killed by construction work.

And yes, trees kill other trees. Trees compete for vital resources, particularly water and sunlight. Trees that cannot compete successfully against neighboring trees for critical resources die in a process called 'succession.'

Almost all tree deaths in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest are caused by natural events that have gone on for as long as there have been forests. Not all tree deaths are bad. Many organisms benefit and depend upon dead trees. Tree death can be bad when it interferes with forest recreation activities. For example, dead trees in popular campgrounds pose a high risk of falling, a huge safety issue. Dead trees also provide highly flammable fuel that is consumed in fires.

Not all trees that look dead are dead. Western spruce budworms eat the current season needles on Douglas-firs and true firs, resulting in a scorched or dead look in July and August. However, upon close examination, most defoliated trees will be found to be alive. Many trees burned by fires may initially appear to be dead, but several survive because tree buds were not killed by the flames. The buds produce new foliage to keep the trees alive. Some people still are tricked into thinking western larch trees are dying in the fall when all their foliage turns yellow and falls off. The larch are not dying, it is natural for the foliage to drop off in the autumn just like leaves fall off most hardwoods.

So yes, there are lots of dead trees in the forests, but the forests are not dying. ■

 The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest continues to move toward implementing the Travel Management Rule. This rule requires all national forests in the nation to complete Travel Analysis, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, and designation of trails, roads and areas open to motorized use (by type of vehicle and time of year) no later than December, 2009.

“Our goal is to provide public access to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest via a sustainable, well maintained system of roads and trails,” said Forest Supervisor Becki Heath. “We really value the public comments that we have received so far, and I look forward to continuing discussions with the public.”



In 2007, the Forest Service received valuable information from many forest users who attended open house public meetings held across the forest. “Our goal at those meetings was to gather information about key travel routes on the National Forest,” Heath said.

Information gathered from the public meetings, from written comments, and from District resource specialists provided a better understanding of public interests and concerns.

“From the information that we gathered, it is apparent that forest users are very passionate about access to their favorite areas of the national forest,” Heath said.

In 2008, the Forest Service will continue working toward the goal of publishing Motor Vehicle Use maps by December 2009. The focus of the Travel Management Team’s work this spring and summer is reviewing and verifying data. The team will complete additional transportation analysis, including reviewing and updating the forest transportation atlas which is the official record of National Forest System roads and trails.



In addition to the work being done on the Travel Management Rule, the Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest Plan is also being revised. Heath has asked the Forest Plan Revision Team and the Travel Management Team to closely coordinate their efforts so that both of these important projects can be accomplished in an efficient and economical manner.

Many detailed comments were received during the past year; the Travel Management Team will be reviewing and taking into consideration those comments as part of the analysis process. In addition, the team will be utilizing a watershed risk analysis tool that the Forest Plan Revision Team is using for identifying resource capacity related to aquatics, fisheries and wildlife. Information from these different sources will be combined to further refine transportation management options.



To remain on track with the December 2009 deadline, the Travel Management Team plans to develop a Proposed Action and publish a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register this fall. That will mark the beginning of the environmental analysis process and be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Further information about the Travel Management process will be posted on the Forest website at: www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/travel-management



SIX STEPS OF THE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PROCESS

1. Determine existing uses on all motorized roads and trails based on current management of the transportation system. This step has been completed.

2. Gather public input regarding potential routes. Identify key resources motorized designations. This step has been completed.

3. Take a comprehensive look at the network of forest roads and trails which evaluates travel management issues such as public safety, wildlife, fish, riparian, botanical, soils, overall user demand, and conflicts. Screen existing and proposed route opportunities considering social, physical, and managerial conditions. Gather public feedback to identify opportunities for a motorized system. This step will occur in 2008.

4. Site specific environmental analysis (NEPA) of changes to the existing travel network will occur. The travel management rule does not require reconsideration of past travel management decisions. This process will occur in 2009.

5. Publication of the Motor Vehicle Use map completes the designation process and will occur in 2010. Prohibition of travel off the designated system goes into effect upon publication of the Motor Vehicle Use map.

6. Public education, enforcement, and monitoring will occur in 2010 and beyond. Through monitoring and adaptive management, designations on the Motor Vehicle Use map are subject to revision. Maps will be republished annually to reflect revisions. ■

WHERE WILL I BE ABLE TO USE MY MOTOR VEHICLE?

BY TOM GRAHAM



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Methow Valley Ranger District

Michael Alvarado — 509-486-5111
Tonasket Ranger District



FOREST NEWS AND INFORMATION

PROVIDING THE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES YOU WANT

RECREATION FEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BY AMY TINDERHOLT



New campground sign on Entiat Ranger District



Relocation and repair of toilet at Scatter Creek Trailhead



Repair of boat dock at Clear Lake boat launch



Installation of a bridge over a fish-bearing stream on a motorized trail on Cle Elum Ranger District

In 2007, the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest received approximately \$680,000 in revenue from the Recreation Fee program. These funds were important in providing needed maintenance and operation funds for the Forest's trails and campgrounds.

Recreation Fee revenues routinely fund program administration, annual hazard tree removal, garbage service and litter patrol, water system maintenance, toilet pumping, sign replacement, fee compliance, and fee collection work in recreation sites and on trails. In addition, Recreation Fee revenues help fund maintenance and operation of docks at boat-in sites on Lake Chelan, groomed ski trails at Echo Ridge, supported the Enchantment reservation program, provided opportunities for family gathering of Christmas trees, staffed information and interpretive services for visitors, and maintained five recreation rental cabins.

Recreation fees helped to leverage over \$200,000 in Federal and State (gas tax) grants for planning, development/reconstruction, maintenance, and enforcement and education programs for recreation sites and trails.

RECREATION PASS REVENUES

The following activities were accomplished at Ranger Districts using Recreation Pass revenue:

Naches Ranger District

- Repair and re-installation of boat dock at Clear Lake Boat Launch (with volunteer help and donations)
- Repair of Bumping Lake Boat Dock
- Improved signing and parking lot painting at Chinook Pass Trailhead
- Repair of the flood-damaged accessible walkway bridge at Clear Creek Day Use Site (with volunteer help and donated supplies)
- Completion of the Federal Highway Administration funded Clear Creek Overlook and Trailhead Final trail rehabilitation, signing, and hazard tree removal was accomplished
- Relocation / repair of toilet at Scatter Creek Trailhead
- White Pass Horse Camp and White Pass South Trailhead renovations were completed
- Repainted all old pit vault toilets, repaired permit boxes and bulletin boards at trailheads (volunteers made this possible), and removed graffiti from numerous toilets and recreation signs
- Log-out (removal of trees fallen across trail) on over 50 miles of backcountry trails

Cle Elum Ranger District

- Helped to staff and maintain the Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Information Center
- Installation of a bridge over a fish-bearing stream on a motorized trail
- Maintained 300 miles of non-motorized and 340 miles of motorized trails

Wenatchee River Ranger District

- Installed three fee tubes at Stuart Lake Trailhead, Little Wenatchee Trailhead, and Icicle River Kiosk
- Trail log-out and maintenance on about 525 miles of trails (all funded through grants leveraged with recreation fees)

Entiat Ranger District

- Removed graffiti from Lake Creek Trailhead
- Installed a solar operated water fountain/pump at Silver Falls Recreation Area

Tonasket

- Two new horse hitch rails were installed for Cathedral Drive Trail (Chewuch Trailhead) with assistance from Oroville Trail Riders
- Trail log-out and minor tread maintenance on 42 miles of trails
- Replaced one 20-foot trail bridge on Albert Camp Trail #375

CAMPGROUND FEE REVENUES

Large wind events during the winter of 2006 made opening campgrounds especially difficult this past season. Campgrounds were littered with large downed trees and debris. Trees damaged toilets, tables, and other facilities, and there was an increase in the number of hazard trees that needed to be removed. Recreation fees were used to help repair damages resulting from the wind storms.

Recreation fees helped to leverage over \$150,000 in Washington State (gas tax) grants for planning, development, maintenance, and operations of campgrounds.

Notable accomplishments with campground fee revenues in 2007 include:

Naches Ranger District

- Completed the renovation of Dog Lake Campground/Day Use/Trailhead (WA State grant project with Recreation Fee revenue as a match)
- Improvement of the Clear Lake Campground host site (added electricity and sewage holding tank)
- New metal gates at several campgrounds and repair of the gate at South Fork Campground
- Repair of numerous picnic tables on the District

Entiat Ranger District

- Installed new, durable recycled plastic entrance signs at Cottonwood and Pine Flats campgrounds
- Funding for host at Silver Falls Campground
- Began planning for new horse camps at Cottonwood Campground and North Fork Trailhead (WA State grant with campground revenue used as matching funds)
- Implemented a campground vegetation plan in Silver Falls Campground to remove trees with laminated root rot and plant disease resistant trees in the new canopy openings

Methow Valley Ranger District

- Provided funding for eight campground hosts

Tonasket Ranger District

- Installed two new barrier-free picnic tables and four new campfire rings in campgrounds
- Funded Ferry County PUD power at Bonaparte/Lost Lake Campgrounds

RECREATION RENTAL REVENUES

Revenue from recreation rentals is used primarily for the maintenance and operation of the rental facility, improvements to the facility, and for program administration and management of the reservation system.

In 2007, recreation rental revenues funded the installation of new metal gates at the American River Guard Station on the Naches Ranger District. These revenues also funded improvements and repairs at Cottonwood Cabin on Entiat District which allowed the cabin to go back onto the reservation system in spring 2008. These repairs included the replacement of the old propane lighting system with new LED lights, replacement of the propane water heater, and installation of new fixtures.

SPECIAL PERMIT REVENUES

Revenue from special recreation permits is used to administer the permit system, maintain the recreation facilities, provide services within the permit areas, and to provide public information.

More information on specific accomplishments can be found at: www.fs.fed.us/r6/passespermits/docs/07-accomp-rpts/07-oka-wen.pdf

METHOW VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT

In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt signed a proclamation creating the Chelan National Forest from land formerly known as the Chelan Forest Reserve. The area, now known as the Methow Valley Ranger District, was managed by several rangers who worked from strategically placed ranger stations around the area.

Dreams of striking it rich had been drawing settlers and prospectors to the Methow Valley for decades around the turn of the 20th century. The glory days of mining have long since passed, many ranger stations were closed and combined into the Methow Valley Ranger District, and what was once the Chelan National Forest has evolved into the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Forest Service employees value the many treasures that mark that period in the history of the Methow Valley. The fascination with the lifestyles of people who made their living in the Methow Valley has led to an important partnership between the Forest Service and the Shafer Museum in Winthrop. Contributions from the Methow Valley Ranger District's supply of historical photographs have gone into the impressive collection of historical photographs and other artifacts at the museum.



Tiffany Lookout (built in 1931, destroyed in 1953)

Museum volunteers have worked hard to digitally preserve thousands of historic photographs. The digital collection includes more than 3,000 photographs, most of them shared by local pioneer families. Another 300 photographs were added to the museum's collection courtesy of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Methow Valley District Ranger John Newcom fully supports the partnership. "These photographs portray a way of life most people can only imagine. Sharing these photographs with the museum is a way we can get these images before a wider public audience," he said.

Local Forest Service employees keep an eye out for photographs of early mining and other historic activities that can be shared with the public through the museum. Cooperative efforts between museum volunteers and local Forest Service employees over many years have helped develop one of the finest educational displays of its type in the American West.

"You can't view these pictures without building a stronger awareness of the people who pioneered this area, the beautiful rugged settings they lived and worked in, and the key role of available resources used for extraction and recreation going back over 100 years," Newcom said.

It is through partnerships such as these that the Forest Service and Shafer Museum can help protect, honor, and share a piece of local history.

"We thank the volunteers for their hard work and perseverance with this photo preservation project, it helps make history come alive for all who see it," Newcom added. ■

PHOTOS BRING HISTORY TO LIFE

BY MEG TREBON AND KAREN WEST



Winthrop Ranger Station Compound, circa 1930s

North Central Washington's Chelan Ridge Raptor Migration Project is an ongoing partnership of State, Federal, and private partners that has inspired kids' enthusiasm for the natural world by giving them a chance to see wild birds of prey right before their eyes.

The Chelan Ridge Project is one of a network of sites established to better understand raptor ecology. Biologists that volunteer for the project count and capture hawks, falcons, and eagles that are migrating through central Washington in autumn.

Chris Street, who recently finished college in Montana, is one of the volunteer biologists working with the Chelan Ridge Project. When asked about the project Street said, "This project gives biologists like me, who are just starting out, a chance to learn first hand about raptor biology and to work with kids to share what we've learned with them. It's a great opportunity."

The biologists measure and band the birds that are caught. Then, before the birds are released to continue their migration, they share them with visiting students. For most students, this is the first time they have seen a wild raptor up close. Volunteer interpreters help the students learn about the relationships between soil, fire, climate, and biological communities.

Many teachers in North Central Washington have embraced the opportunity to get outdoors and visit real scientific projects studying natural environ-

ments. A teacher who participated last year wrote, "Thanks so much for the great nature experience – the soils, the birds, and the view. And yes, the beautiful Merlin was the icing on the cake. I have been awestruck every time I think of its fierce wildness, especially in its eyes. Thanks for the time sharing with us. I definitely want to make a return visit."

Students are equally enthusiastic about the chance to get to the woods. One student from Wenatchee recently wrote, "I never thought I would ever do something like that. It was very exciting being up that high and being able to look down on Lake Chelan."

The future looks bright for this partnership that includes the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, HawkWatch International, and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Other groups, organizations, and schools want to visit the site and see raptor migration monitoring in action; more partners want to participate in the science; and additional investigations need to be pursued regarding the effects of climate change, hydrogen isotope deposits within the feathers, and the effects of fire on prey populations.

"The Forest Service and our partners are eager to reach more students for this kind of learning and help them become effective in finding solutions for the challenges that face our natural world", said John Newcom, Methow Valley District Ranger. ■



OUR PIECE OF THE SKY - RAPTORS IN MIGRATION

BY KENT WOODRUFF



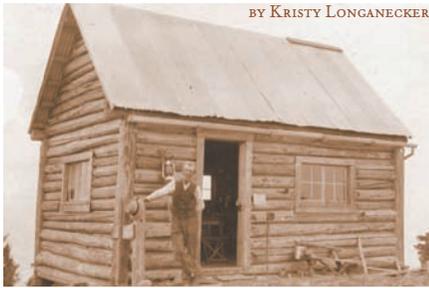
Above: Biologist shows a Merlin to students
Left: Student releases Redtail Hawk

"THANKS SO MUCH FOR THE GREAT NATURE EXPERIENCE – THE SOILS, THE BIRDS, AND THE VIEW. AND YES, THE BEAUTIFUL MERLIN WAS THE ICING ON THE CAKE. I HAVE BEEN AWESTRUCK EVERY TIME I THINK OF ITS FIERCE WILDNESS, ESPECIALLY IN ITS EYES. THANKS FOR THE TIME SHARING WITH US. I DEFINITELY WANT TO MAKE A RETURN VISIT."

TONASKET RANGER DISTRICT

HISTORIC FIRE LOOKOUTS

BY KRISTY LONGANECKER



In addition to serving as a fire lookout, Aeneas Lookout served as an Army Aircraft Warning Station during World War II.



Bonaparte Mountain Lookout, and the original cabin which was repaired in the early 1990's. This lookout is still staffed today.

In 1910, a wildfire burned over 3 million acres across Washington, Idaho and, Montana. As a result of this catastrophic event, the newly formed Forest Service began to implement policies to suppress wildfires. The new agency policy required that all fires be extinguished by 10:00 a.m., the morning after a fire started. Detecting, suppressing, and controlling all wildfires became a priority. The Forest Service, though, had limited funds and manpower to comply with the new regulation.

Around the same time, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was looking at ways to move the country forward and out of the Great Depression. To aid this effort, he established the "Civilian Conservation Corps" (CCC). The development of the CCC helped to address the funding and manpower shortage faced by the Forest Service in the battle against wildfires.

From 1933 to 1942 CCC crews across the U.S. worked on various projects, including building lookout towers in the Pacific Northwest. With the combined forces of Forest Service and CCC crews, lookout towers were being constructed in almost every county in Washington State. These crews not only constructed the towers; they built trails and roads to access the towers. Once a lookout was built, it became a permanent part of the fire protection program.

The golden age of fire lookout towers was from 1930 through 1950. During World War II fire lookouts were drafted by the US Army as Aircraft Warning Stations, especially on the West Coast of the United States. This included a number of towers in Okanogan County. The lookout was staffed usually with two individuals who worked according to the Army's requirements. The team took turns monitoring the skies for enemy aircraft. Someone was on duty at all times, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year until the program ended after World War II.

Congress stopped funding for the CCC program around 1939. The work done by the CCC was shifted to the military, with the exception of wildfire suppression. Federal agencies took on that responsibility and began to organize seasonal fire crews, modeled after the CCC suppression crews.

After World War II, lookout towers continued to be a part of the fire management detection program. However, around 1960 lookouts were becoming obsolete and removed as new technology emerged to replace their function. Around this time, the Forest Service began using aircraft to detect and report wildfires. Some lookouts are staffed today for fire detection, radio dispatching, weather observation, and some serve as recreational rentals.

While some lookouts, like Bonaparte and Funk Mountain, are still staffed to help fire suppression crews, and others like Mt. Hull still stand as a reminder of days gone past, other lookout locations are mere memories.

Lookout towers in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest have a long and colorful history. Contact your local ranger district office for information about lookouts that are still staffed today. ■

CHILDREN SKI AND LEARN IN AN OUTDOOR WINTERTIME CLASSROOM

BY PATTI BAUMGARDNER



Tonasket Ranger District teamed up with Mrs. Conkle's 5th grade Tonasket Elementary School class as part of the Forest Service campaign to get more kids in the woods. While they didn't actually go to the woods, each of Mrs. Conkle's 25 students became Junior Snow Rangers through a program designed to teach natural history during the winter while getting children outdoors.

The weather cooperated as the class met in the snow on two different mornings. Each student donned cross-country skis, many for the first time ever. By the end of the first hour everyone had learned how to get up when they fell, and to ski around the football field at least once. Teachers, volunteers, and Forest Service employees followed the kids around on skis or in winter boots, untangling poles, brushing off gloves, and encouraging new found skills. There was a little frustration, a lot of laughter, and an entire class of bright red cheeks and sparkling eyes.

Classroom discussion was also part of the program. As this is the centennial year for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, students learned about early times in the Forest Service. The students were able to relate what they learned about the life of District Rangers and their families 100 years ago to what they had recently been learning in social studies. The kids also talked about animal adaptations for winter, snow safety, and winter recreation.

Day two brought the group back outside where they skied between three different learning stations. One station demonstrated winter camping techniques where several students on skis tried pulling a fully loaded sled. A second station taught the kids about animal tracks and snowflake formation. The students looked at diagrams of the types of crystals that form at various temperatures, then used magnifying lenses to look at the snowflakes they were skiing on. At the last station, as part of a lesson on snow pack and watersheds, each student conducted their own science experiment to figure what part of the snow pack stores the most water.

"We had some specific goals in delivering the program this way," said Shannon O'Brien, Public Affairs Specialist with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. "We were looking for a fun, interactive way to show kids more about their nearby Forest while tying in with what Mrs. Conkle is already teaching about the scientific method and history."

"We wanted to do the whole thing on skis so we could introduce the kids to a form of outdoor recreation that many of them have not experienced. The Highlands Nordic Sno-Park, near Havillah, is a hidden treasure that many cross-country skiers aren't aware of. This type of skiing is something kids can do in their own neighborhoods," added O'Brien.

The students and adults had smiles on their rosy cheeked faces, and by the end of the second session many of them were skiing really well. ■



Did you know that the Chelan Ranger District once held the distinction of being the Chelan National Forest, extending from the Chelan Mountains on the west to the Okanogan River on the east?

It all began when Forest Reserves were created in 1905. By 1907 they were renamed 'National Forests.' Created in 1908, the Chelan National Forest was formerly a portion of the old Washington Forest Reserve, one of 13 reserves consisting of over 13 million acres of land in the western portion of the U.S. During this period of history, headquarters and field offices were simple and moved frequently from place to place.

There were four divisions of the Chelan National Forest. These divisions were named Chelan, Stehekin, Conconully, and Squaw Creek. The Chelan Division consisted of three Ranger Districts—Entiat, with headquarters at Steliko; Sawtooth Ranger District, with headquarters at Deer Point and Chelan; and the Lake Chelan Ranger District, with headquarters at Twentyfive Mile Creek. The Forest Headquarters was in Chelan.

Around 1910-1911 the Okanogan National Forest was established with lands from the eastern portion of the Chelan National Forest.

During this time, Ranger Districts were geographical entities with rather flexible boundaries and headquarters offices (ranger stations). Ranger District boundaries were based on topography, with no District smaller than two townships (a township is 36 square miles). Sites were selected on the basis of public accessibility, communications, availability of supplies, and a suitable climate for year-long residence. Requirements included a good water supply, a building site, and sufficient pasture

for grazing stock (enough to support two horses and one cow for an entire season), with sufficient forage for a visiting officer's livestock.

In the 1920s, the Okanogan National Forest once more became part of the Chelan National Forest. Change occurred again in 1955 when this process was reversed and the Chelan Ranger District became part of the Wenatchee National Forest, losing its title as a National Forest, perhaps forever.

Other changes included the establishment of the 520,000-acre Pasayten Wilderness (previously known as the North Cascades Primitive Area), the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

The Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness was designated (with the passage of the Washington Wilderness Act of 1984) on lands occupied by the old Chelan Division of the Washington Forest Reserve; now part of today's merged Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Today, the Chelan Ranger District encompasses approximately 377,000 acres and extends from the outskirts of the city of Chelan to the Cascade Crest in the Glacier Peak Wilderness and to the border of the Lake Chelan National Recreation area. ■

CHELAN NATIONAL FOREST—A HISTORY OF CHANGES

BY SUSAN PETERSON
(INCLUDING INFORMATION FROM
HISTORIAN MARK DELEON)



Recreationists looking for a unique camping experience should try out one of Chelan Ranger District's many boat-in campgrounds. Just as the name implies, these campgrounds are only accessible by boat.

Don't have a boat? That's not a problem! During the summer months the Lake Chelan Boat Company offers passenger ferry service to three campgrounds—Prince Creek, Lucerne, and Moore Point.

Boat-in campgrounds are located along both shores of Lake Chelan. The closest campground is about 18 miles from the city of Chelan. Campers enjoy these sites because they are remote and less busy than campgrounds near town. Sites are available on a "first come, first serve" basis, which makes it convenient for people who decide to take a last minute camping trip. For those who like to plan ahead, it usually isn't hard to find a spot at these campgrounds, except during busy holiday weekends.

Fourteen boat-in campgrounds are open for the 2008 season; ten are maintained by the Forest Service and four are maintained by the National Park Service. Available campgrounds include Corral Creek, Deer Point, Domke Falls, Graham Harbor, Lucerne, Mitchell Creek, Moore Point, Prince Creek, Refrigerator Harbor, Safety Harbor, Flick Creek, Manley Wham, and Weaver Point. Big Creek and Graham Harbor Creek campgrounds will remain closed this year due to fire damage from the 2004 Pot Peak fire.

What can you expect to find at these boat-in campgrounds? All campgrounds have a floating or a fixed dock, picnic tables, fire rings, and toilets. Mitchell Creek, Moore Point, Refrigerator Harbor,

and Flick Creek campgrounds also have shelters. Purple Point and Weaver Point are the only campgrounds with potable water.

For those who like to hike while they are camping, a few of the boat-in campgrounds offer some great hiking trails. One of our most popular trails is the Lakeshore Trail, a 17-mile long trail beginning at Prince Creek and ending in Stehekin.

If day hiking is more your style, camp at Moore Point and hike to Stehekin, only 7 miles away! Lucerne and Refrigerator Harbor campgrounds are the jumping off points for a 3-mile hike up to Domke Lake, or you can take the Holden Village shuttle bus 12 miles up Railroad Creek for some excellent hiking in the Glacier Peak Wilderness.

Trails abound in the Stehekin area; stay at one of the Park Service boat-in campgrounds and hike a new trail every day!

Dock permits are required for all boats using the docks at the boat-in campgrounds. Permits are \$5 per day or \$40 for the season (May 1-October 31). Kayaks and canoes are exempt from this permit as these boats are typically pulled out of the water and not tied to the dock. Eighty percent of the revenue earned through dock fees is used to maintain and improve uplake docks and campgrounds. Note: No gas is available between Twentyfive Mile Creek and Stehekin. ■

BOAT-IN CAMPGROUNDS, AN EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE!

BY KELLY UNDERWOOD



Graham Harbor Campground dock

CLE ELUM RANGER DISTRICT

A DIFFERENT TIME AND PLACE

BY KIM LARNED

November 15, 1926 MEMORANDUM FOR OPERATION

I spent a couple of days on the Easton District in October. From what I saw while there, I was much impressed with the way that Ranger Grover C. Burch has taken hold of the district. I saw especially his work on campgrounds along the Sunset Highway and on the Cle Elum River. He has done good work in having new camps cleared up, old ones maintained and has done especially good work in providing new toilets at several camps, using whatever material was available. The toilets are well built and fly-proof. He seems to be getting familiar with the district and its problems as fast as he can. He realizes, I believe, the PR side of his work and has some good ideas on getting cooperation of the outside organizations, notably the Rotary Club at Cle Elum in the development of one or more campgrounds on the upper Cle Elum River. I understood from Supervisor Sylvester that he had done very good work since coming to the Wenatchee.

Burch's living accommodations at Easton are very unsatisfactory. He is renting about the only house available, which is small, poor looking and unsatisfactory. He was planning to buy a lot and build at Easton and asked the Supervisor Sylvester and me what assurance he could be given as to transfer in case he did this; of course, no such assurance could be given him. It seems to me that Easton is a location where we could purchase a site for an office, ranger station and storehouse; we already have leased a site and built a good storehouse on it.

Burch has been in the Service since 1908, having been a ranger since 1910. He is now getting \$2000, with no quarters, having been promoted last on March 1, 1926.

Former Ranger James McKenzie was receiving \$2100 on the Easton District at the time of his death. I believe that Burch is entitled to a similar salary and I recommend that he receive a promotion on January 1, 1926.

J.D. Guthrie
Assistant District Forester

Historic documents give a unique perspective of place and time. The following documents provide a snapshot of what was happening on the Cle Elum Ranger District in 1926 and 1960. At that time the district was split into two separate districts, the Easton Ranger District and Liberty Ranger District.

The documents that follow are reports sent to the Forest Service Regional Office as described by an inspector in 1926 and the District Ranger in 1960.

For comparison, in 2006, the Cle Elum Ranger District had a grazing program that permitted just over 2,000 sheep and cows to graze in the Virden, Swauk, and Manastash allotments. Last year, the District removed 386,000 board feet of timber through forest health and fuels reduction projects and planted 19,010 trees on 56 acres. District fire crews suppressed 23 fires, totaling about 400 acres.

As we celebrate our 100th year on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, a look back gives some perspective about change. No doubt, in 2108 we will look back on the events on the Cle Elum Ranger District and ponder the differences and parallels about the times. ■



Ranger's residence ca. 1936



Easton Ranger Station ca. 1930



Cle Elum Ranger Station ca. 1936.
This is the dwelling that was replaced in 1960.

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS - Calendar Year 1960

CLE ELUM RANGER DISTRICT

TIMBER MANAGEMENT: Despite the slump in the lumber market, timber operations removed a total of 21.5 million board feet of timber with a total value of \$294,000.00. This cut included 6.5 million of small salvage sales which removed dead and dying trees resulting from blowdown, insects and disease, and fire. The volume was removed from 512 clearcut acres and 1152 partial cut acres. The approval of cost share agreements with the Northern Pacific Railway Company for the Cabin Creek and Cooper River drainages will make it possible to develop these areas. An experimental plot was set up in the Kachess Campground to determine the feasibility of using Acti-Dione as a means of controlling white pine blister rust in this area.

REFORESTATION: In 1960 planting accomplishments were: 327,000 Trees. 450 Acres.

FIRE CONTROL: A total of 12 fires were reported in 1960 with a burn of 59 acres. The largest fire occurred on the Meadow Creek sale area and burned 56 acres; mainly in cut over clearcuts.

ENGINEERING: Considerable progress was made during the year in repairing flood damage on roads and trails caused by flood damage in the fall of 1959. Operator construction during the year was relatively slow, with a total of 5.5 miles of road completed. The district engineers, however, completed surveys for 24 miles of road, 4 bridge sites, and designed 11 miles.

RECREATION: Recreation visits on the district approximated 162,000, with Lake Kachess and Salmon La Sac campgrounds receiving the heaviest use. Considerable progress has been made in repairing flood damage in campgrounds. Expansion of existing campgrounds and construction in new campgrounds added 58 camp and picnic family units.

GRAZING: Two bands of sheep, totaling 1,900 head grazed on the Corral Creek, Fortune Creek and Deception Creek allotments during the year. Range Analysis was completed on the Fortune Creek and Corral Creek allotments.

WILDLIFE: Some 15,000 hunters hunted the abundance of deer, elk and bear that inhabit the district. The Ranger and his personnel cooperated with the State Game Commission in controlling, directing and attempting to educate the hunting population in the proper use of this resource. Also, on several occasions the Forest Service organized search parties to find lost hunters.

IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE: A new 3 bedroom Ranger's dwelling was constructed. A new site plan for the Ranger Station was also completed this year.

NACHES RANGER DISTRICT

The story of the Forest Service Ranger begins over a century ago. It originated with the term “District Ranger”. Tough outdoorsmen were hired to patrol, or range, a subdivision (a District) of the vast wild areas of the newly minted National Forests. These first District Rangers’ early experiences and exploits shaped many of the proud traditions and values of the Forest Service.

The early 20th century west was a much different place than we know today. Trails far outnumbered roads, and the sparse population was concentrated in a few towns with outlying ranches and homesteads.

Presidential proclamations created National Forests out of the public domain; however, aside from boundary lines on a map not much was known about these lands. Early District Rangers were hired to range over vast expanses of forests and grasslands, to establish recognizable landmarks along boundary lines, inventory resources, identify who was using the land and for what, enforce rules, and protect resources.

Travel into these remote areas required lengthy journeys by horseback or foot, and all supplies and equipment had to be carried with them. Successful Rangers required intelligence, integrity, resourcefulness, woodsmanship skills, strength, and stamina. A Ranger had to know how to handle and care for livestock, navigate difficult terrain, cook, fight fire, and stay on good terms with the citizens of the surrounding communities.

At the time, grazing on the National Forests was the leading industry, along with limited timber harvest, minerals prospecting, and some hunting and fishing. The District Ranger was responsible for monitoring these activities and assuring that everyone abided by the rules. Rangers were also re-

sponsible for detecting and fighting wildfires. Once a fire was located, the District Ranger would round up a crew of “volunteers” (sometimes with requisite persuasion to leave the comfort of the local saloon), guide them to the fire and supervise the firefighting.

It made for a challenging and rewarding vocation for someone wanting to work in the outdoors, and became the basis for some classic yarns of colorful characters and exciting events.

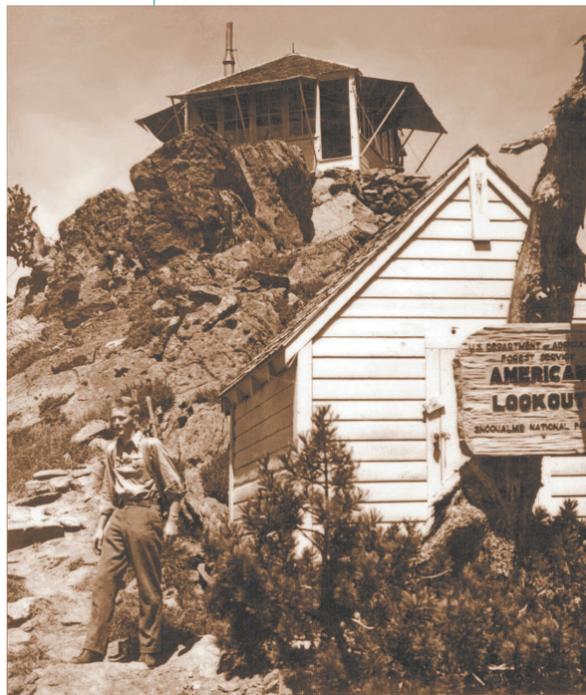
Forest Service Rangers still care for the land and resources in the National Forests. Modern transportation and communications conveniences have taken much, but not all, of the hard physical labor out of the job. Computers, telephones, and radios make sharing information more efficient, and long pack trips are now a relic of the past.

Yet, despite the changes of the modern world, some things have endured. Integrity, intelligence, leadership, and resourcefulness are still required of natural resource stewards.

Today, if a District Ranger plans his or her schedule just right, they may get to take a pack trip into the wilderness. Escaping the sights and sounds of modern society reminds them how this profession began, and what a privilege it is to continue the tradition of being a Ranger. ■

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

BY RANDY SHEPARD



Ranger at American Lookout, Naches Ranger District

FIRE

The word elicits widely different responses. While some may recall the serenity of a campfire or hearth, others are reminded of raging wildfires devouring everything in their path. Why can essentially the same chemical reaction have such different effects?

Fire is one of the primeval and elemental forces that shape the environment we inhabit. Lightning has ignited forest fires for eons, and people have used fire on the landscape to their benefit. Historically, Native Americans used fire to improve forage plants and open areas for hunting purposes. As America grew and the land was “tamed” by those of European descent, fire became a threat to the fields, farms, forests and towns that supported modern society.



In the early 20th century, a series of large, destructive, deadly wildfires cast fire as the enemy. As in war, the enemy must be defeated, so an aggressive suppression policy became the only acceptable response.

Suppression efforts over the past 100 years were generally successful—in retrospect, perhaps too successful. Despite good intentions, these actions have created an unnatural build-up of forest fuels. Add drought to this mix and it creates a potentially explosive event for which a new term has been

coined—mega-fires. These fires burn for weeks or even months, cost millions of dollars to suppress, and can cause millions more in damage to property and resources.

Fire has an important role in many of our natural ecosystems. Attempting to completely exclude it from these landscapes is both futile and counterproductive. Properly used, fire (in the form of prescribed burns) is an efficient and economical tool to reduce fuel accumulations, thin overcrowded trees, release nutrients, and improve forest health.

Achieving these benefits does not come without assuming some risks as well. The key is balancing the risks with the rewards through careful planning and skillful implementation. Today, highly-trained fire managers utilize a rigorous process to identify favorable conditions and methods before prescribed burns occur. Contingency plans are developed and checked. Weather and fuel conditions are monitored before, during, and after burning operations. Crews may use tools ranging from hand-held torches to helicopters to ignite the prescribed burns in the proper pattern to achieve the desired results.

Our society is at a critical juncture, though. The continued expansion of communities and homes further into the wildland urban interface (the area where houses meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland vegetation) requires that we make some difficult decisions. Our challenge is to find the proper balance between a desired quality of life without sacrificing the natural resources that support it. The wise use of fire is an important component in finding the answer to that issue.

Fire—friend, enemy, or tool—it is something that we will be dealing with and managing forever. ■

100 YEARS OF FIRE MANAGEMENT

BY RANDY SHEPARD

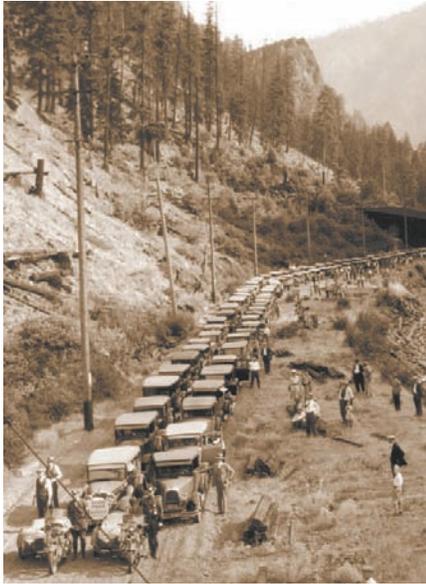


Photos: Firefighters in 1931 and today.

WENATCHEE RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

A MOST SCENIC JOURNEY

EXCERPTS FROM
AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE
WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST, WASHINGTON



One of the most scenic highway drives in Washington State is located on the Wenatchee River Ranger District. If you follow U.S. Highway 2, be sure and travel the section through Stevens Pass. You will find a wealth of recreation opportunities, historical points, and spectacular scenery.

Stevens Pass, part of the Stevens Pass Historic District, is named after a young, energetic engineer who surveyed the Cascade Mountains in the 1890s looking for a route through the Cascades suitable for the Great Northern Railroad.

By 1892, crews were blasting through solid granite rock and constructing tunnels, trestles, and laying railroad track for one of the nation's greatest construction challenges. It was 1897 before construction of the original 2.5-mile long Cascade Tunnel commenced. During this period two towns thrived at the ends of the tunnel, Wellington on the west end and Cascade Tunnel City on the east. These communities became notorious for their saloons, gambling parlors, and general lawlessness. The *New York World* even went so far as to dub Cascade Tunnel City "the wickedest place in the world."

By 1909, the Great Northern Railroad electrified the Cascade Tunnel passage between Wellington and Cascade Tunnel City, a response to the danger of toxic fume accumulation from steam locomotives. A dam (a scenic stop on the highway

today) and power plant generated the necessary electricity to allow four General Electric locomotives to haul trains through the tunnel at 15 mph.

A tragic footnote to the history of the Great Northern Railway through the north Cascades was the 1910 avalanche that destroyed two stranded trains and the town of Wellington. This tragedy claimed the lives of 118 people. The avalanche buried the line up to 100 feet deep and took 150 workers several weeks to clear. Due to this horrific tragedy, the town of Wellington was renamed Tye.

By 1911, commercial interests in the Wenatchee Valley began to push for construction of a highway over Stevens Pass using the Great Northern Railroad's old switchbacks. In 1913, construction on the Cascade Scenic Highway began. Although funding wavered for a number of years, the situation was remedied in 1919 by passage of a bond measure and \$90,000 assistance from the U.S. Forest Service.

On November 1, 1923, the first automobile reached the summit of Stevens Pass from Wenatchee. The highway opened in the summer of 1925 and was a difficult journey requiring use of creek beds, passage through Horseshoe Tunnel, and a perilous trip across a trestle on the Great Northern Railroad right-of-way.

To truly appreciate this route through the Cascade Mountains, be sure and stop at Bygone Byways, Deception Falls, and the Iron Goat Trail interpretive sites when you travel U.S. Highway 2 over Stevens Pass. ■

Opening of Stevens Pass highway in Tumwater Canyon near Leavenworth, 1929

REDUCING THE RISK

BY VAUGHAN MARABLE



Over the last century, a combination of fire suppression and land management actions have contributed to more trees growing per acre and increased natural debris on the forest floor. These conditions, referred to as increased fuel loading, are not healthy and have

lead to forests becoming more susceptible to disease and large scale wildfires, especially in the western states.

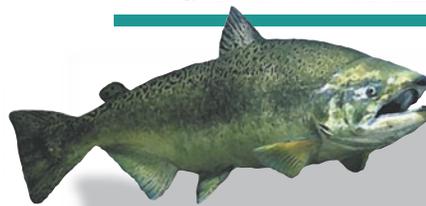
In response to this national concern, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act was passed by Congress in 2003. The Healthy Forest Restoration Act aims at reducing hazardous fuels in communities and watersheds at-risk from large scale wildfire. Additionally, it was designed to

enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health.

The Wenatchee River Ranger District is implementing the Healthy Forest Restoration Act authority locally in its first project, the Canyons Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, using a collaborative process. Collaboration involves other agencies and communities working together to identify areas of high risk and to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The Canyons Project will complete vegetation management work initiated several years ago under the Blag Analysis; that work was postponed because of the Fisher Fire. The analysis work should be complete in 2008 with implementation of fuels reduction work in 2009.

We are excited about working together with our local neighbors and communities in reducing the high risk of wildfire in the wildland urban interface. For more information about the Canyons Project or about future Healthy Forest Restoration projects, contact the Wenatchee River Ranger District office at (509) 548-6977. ■

WENATCHEE RIVER SALMON FESTIVAL



Join in the fun at the 18th annual Wenatchee River Salmon Festival held September 18-21, 2008 in Leavenworth, Washington. This free weekend event celebrates the return of the wild summer Chinook salmon to the Wenatchee River.

A major emphasis of this year's event is connecting kids and nature. With this year's theme, "Salmon and Me," the program will be expanded to include more hands-on exhibits and activities for families to participate in.

In addition, an artistic connection with nature will be highlighted. A wide variety of nature-inspired art forms will be on display, and live demonstrations by artists, sculptors, story tellers, musicians, and dancers will occur.

The Wenatchee River Salmon Festival is located on the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery's

beautiful campus, where it's a perfect match for providing high-quality resource education, promoting outdoor recreation, and sharing the cultural significance of salmon with the people of the Northwest. The festival appeals to every age—from toddler to senior citizen—for the many entertaining activities, outstanding physical setting, and unique approach to connecting with nature.

Visitors enjoy Salmon Festival and combine it with a visit to the unique Bavarian-themed town of Leavenworth, located just a couple miles up the road from the festival.

Come and enjoy, learn and gain a better appreciation of our natural resource treasures, then relax and admire the beauty of the mountains, clear blue skies, and sparkling river.

For more information, swim over to the website at www.salmonfest.org ■

ENTIAT RANGER DISTRICT

President Theodore Roosevelt signed the act which created the Forest Service on February 1, 1905. More than 148 million acres were added to the National Forest system during his presidency, including the area now known as the Entiat Ranger District.

ENTIAT RANGER DISTRICT'S STORY

Originally, there were two districts in the Entiat drainage--the Upper Entiat District at Brennegan Creek and the Lower Entiat District at Steliko. These two districts were formed in 1908 as part of the Wenatchee National Forest. On July 1, 1910, the districts in the Entiat watershed were detached from the Wenatchee National Forest and attached to the Chelan National Forest. In 1921 the Upper and Lower Districts combined and the administration of the Entiat Ranger District was returned to the Wenatchee National Forest.



STELIKO RANGER STATION

The two districts were combined in 1921, creating the Entiat Ranger District. Located at the mouth of Steliko Canyon, the Steliko Ranger Station was at this location until 1960 when the main office was moved to the town of Entiat. This site then became the Steliko Work Center. Many of the buildings, such as the barn, warehouse, gas house, and two residences were built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The water supply for the station was piped from a spring in Muddy Creek and into reservoirs near the barn.



THE BUSHMEN

The Entiat Hot Shot Crew began in the early 1960s as a local fire suppression crew of 25 members who called themselves the Bushmen. In 1966, the Bushmen became one of the first inter-regional crews in Oregon and Washington. In 1983, the name of the crew changed from the Bushmen to the Entiat Interagency Hot Shot Crew. Today, this highly skilled 20-person crew travels across the country fighting fires and assisting with other major incidents where needed.

ENTIAT RANGER DISTRICT NOW

Today, the Entiat Ranger District encompasses approximately 258,000 acres of National Forest land and extends from the town of Entiat, located at the confluence of the Entiat and Columbia Rivers, to the Glacier Peak Wilderness. It is bordered by the Chelan Ranger District to the north along the Chelan Mountains divide and by the Wenatchee River Ranger District to the south along the Entiat Mountains divide.

Take a scenic drive up the Entiat River Road where the sage brush steppe country gives way to ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine forests. Visit one of the eight district campgrounds or take a hike or an ATV ride on one of the hundreds of miles of great trails. Enjoy this rugged, picturesque, and diverse area now and into the future. ■

HISTORY OF THE ENTIAT RANGER DISTRICT

FROM THE BOOK UNDER THE GUARD OF OLD TYEE
BY ALBERT "SHORTY" LONG

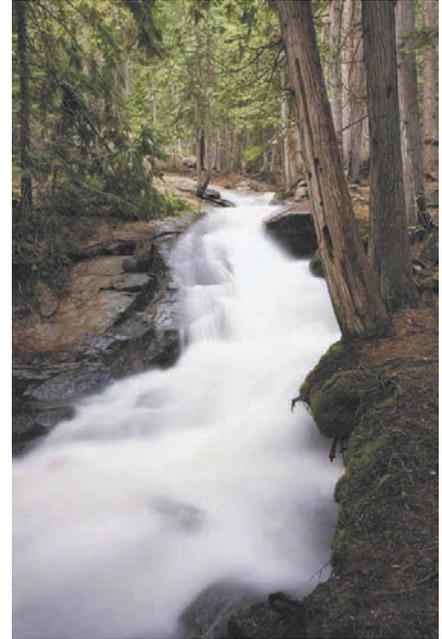


Photo by Tom Iraci

Photos (clockwise from left): Steliko Ranger Station; Bushmen Fire Crew, 1976; Silver Creek below Silver Falls.

This description of Forest Ranger qualifications is taken from "The Statesmanship of Forestry" by Arthur W. Page (The World's Work, January 1908, p. 9757). The "Use Book," which is a kind of Bible for the Forest Service, gives the following qualifications for the position of ranger:

"The applicant must be thoroughly sound and able-bodied, capable of enduring hardships and of performing severe labor under trying conditions. He must be able to take care of himself and his horse in regions remote from settlement and supplies. He must be able to build trails and cabins, ride, pack, and deal tactfully with all classes of people. He must know something of land surveying, estimating and scaling timber, logging, land laws, mining, and the live-stock business.

On some forests the ranger must be a specialist in one or more of these lines of work. Thorough familiarity with the region in which he seeks employment, including its geography and its forest and industrial conditions, is usually demanded although lack of this may be supplied by experience in similar regions. Invalids seeking light out-of-doors employment need not apply. Experience, not book education, is sought, although ability to make simple maps and write intelligent reports upon ordinary forest business is essential.

For duty in Arizona and New Mexico the ranger must know enough Spanish to conduct forest business with Mexicans.

The extraordinary thing is that most of the rangers have these accomplishments. And in all its fullness, the "Use Book" does not tell half the things a ranger must do. It does not mention fighting fire hour after hour without food or water, nor swimming the raging flood of a Western river, nor smiling into the barrel of a loaded gun in the hands of a crazy man, while a comrade slips around through the brush to disarm the lunatic; yet those things and many more fall to the ranger's lot.

One ranger not long ago followed for three days the trail of an old bear that had been killing stock. When finally caught it showed fight, and died with fourteen bullets in it, less than six feet from the ranger. It weighed 800 pounds.

The rangers have that perfect control of horse and gun and the mastery of natural obstacles which were the pride of the "cow-puncher"--and the same keen sense of humor. And they are men of character. There is an esprit de corps among them and a pride in their work which makes them intolerant of anyone who brings discredit to the Service or them.

There is only one thing that threatens the efficiency of the ranger force. The pay is so low that in some localities it has been hard to get good men; and in a few places it has been hard to get a full force of any kind of men. Yet as a whole it is a most efficient corps, one which will soon be as famous as the Northwest Mounted Police are in Canada. Someone will make a great reputation by writing a book about the stories of the Service. And as the public learns about them, it will begin better to realize the importance of their work."

RANGER QUALIFICATIONS 1908



Forest Ranger, 1908



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Major Highways
 Forest Service Offices
 National Forest

Scale
miles 2 6 10 14

Cover photo by Lee Pickett: Summit of Stevens Pass Highway in 1926
 Back page photo: Peaks above the Enchantment Lakes area
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