



United States Department of Agriculture

valuing you AN R6 UPDATE

April 2017



for the greatest good

a small office WITH BIG SERVICE

Nestled between the towns Winthrop and Tonakset in north central Okanogan County, Washington lies the city of Omak, home to the world famous Omak Stampede horse race and a new, cozy little Forest Service visitor information office.

The one-room office is just a step away from the bustling Omak Visitor Center which receives about 4,000 visitors every year.

"Many of those visitors now come into our office for information," said Mark Pepin, Visitor Services Information Specialist for the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF. "Out of this building, between the Omak Visitor Center and our office, we are able to provide information about the whole area, from the Columbia River in the valley floor all the way to the Canadian border."

Robin DeMario, Public Affairs Specialist, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF



*This page: Mark Pepin, Visitor Services Information Specialist, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF
Shannon O'Brien, Public Affairs Specialist, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF*



who's MOVING IN

- **Wes Allen**, Archaeologist for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF
- **Joe Blanchard**, Watershed Program Manager for the Umpqua NF
- **Debbie Boggess**, Director for Budget and Financial Management for R6
- **Alan Braun**, Silviculturist/Operations for the Sweet Home RD on the Willamette NF
- **Joe Carter**, Assistant Fleet Manager for the Siuslaw NF
- **Catherine "Cat" Caruso**, Public Affairs Specialist (Issues Manager) for R6
- **Teagan Culverhouse**, Forestry Technician for the Hebo RD on the Siuslaw NF
- **Marc Dasher**, Timber Sale Contracting Officer for the Willamette NF
- **Riva Duncan**, Interagency Fire Management Officer for the Umpqua NF
- **Robert Gentry**, Natural Resources Staff Officer for the Detroit RD on the Willamette NF
- **Matthew Georgeff**, Assistant Wildlife Biologist for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF
- **Charity Glade**, Botanist for the Detroit RD on the Willamette NF

As the number of employees declined at the formerly leased FS facility in Okanogan, Washington, there was a need to relocate and the timing was good to move into the small office adjacent to the Visitor Center.

"It has been a good move. Having a presence in the central part of the county allows us to continue serving a larger clientele," Pepin said. "Without the Omak location, people from the southern part of the county would have to drive to the Methow Valley or Tonasket to purchase permits or maps. Remaining centrally located makes it easier and more convenient."

"This move has been awesome for me! The Visitor Center folks have been so gracious," Pepin exclaimed. "They have made me feel really at home."

The Omak FS Visitor Information Office is open five days a week and provides the same products and permits that are available at local ranger stations.

The office may be small, but the service is great!

Cover photo by: Jennifer Taylor

school for the blind TAKES CLASS OUTSIDE

The Mt. Hood NF recently hosted 20 students from the Washington State School for the Blind for some environmental education, cross country ski instruction and overnight camping. The two-day Annual Oregon Nordic Club-Teacup Chapter Ski Event celebrated its 11th year on March 7-8 with ski instruction from Nordic Club Volunteers and dinner prepared and served by students from the Timber Lake Job Corps Center.

Laura Pramuk, Public Affairs Specialist, Mt. Hood NF;

Ron Kikel, Information Assistant, Mt. Hood NF



who's MOVING IN

Environmental education was provided by both the Forest Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and thanks to donations from local businesses students were able to develop confidence and experiences that many will remember for the rest of their lives.

- **Amy Hendricks**, Visitor Services Information Assistant for the Detroit RD on the Willamette NF
- **Keeley Heredia**, Regional Strategic Budget Analyst for R6
- **Leah Hurley**, Recreation Specialist for the Wild Rivers RD on the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF
- **Mason Knuthson**, Timber Sale Administrator for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF
- **Mike Larman**, Project Engineer for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF
- **Rob Mickey**, Operations Staff Officer for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF
- **Christopher Nichols**, Recreation Specialist for the Clackamas River RD on the Mt. Hood NF
- **Michael Plank**, Assistant Fire Engine Operator for the Santiam River Zone on the Willamette NF
- **Ann Rogers**, Transportation Assistant for the Willamette NF
- **Jason Severs**, Forestry Technician (Recreation, Operations and Maintenance) for the Santiam River Zone on the Willamette NF
- **Jennifer Sorensen**, Partnership Coordinator for the Willamette NF
- **Chris Sorensen**, Natural Resources and Timber Staff for the Sweet Home RD on the Willamette NF



the science of snow

AT OCHOCO DIVIDE



When the Barness Butte Elementary School in Prineville, Oregon made a request to help teach first and second graders about snow science, a group of employees from the Ochoco NF stepped up and delivered their first conservation education in the winter about snow.

Thanks to some shared curriculum from Chiara Cipriano and Aleta Eng from the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF, students were able to spend almost three hours playing games and learning the science of snow while immersed in the National Forest at Ochoco Divide.

Patrick Lair, Public Affairs Officer, Ochoco NF and Crooked River NG



land of umpqua

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Local amateur photographers submitted 101 photos for an interagency contest during the 21st Annual Sportsmen's & Outdoor Recreation Show in Roseburg, Oregon.

The contest included five categories: "Scenery," "People Enjoying Nature," "Animals in Nature," "Flat Smokey in the Photo" and "Selfies in the Woods" with one "Best in Show" category as voted by people attending the outdoor show.

Local resident Abigail McEnroe earned "Best in Show" for her photo of a young boy and dog while Jennifer Taylor, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist for the Umpqua NF earned 1st Place in the "Flat Smokey in the Photo" category.

Cheryl Caplan, Public Affairs Officer, Umpqua NF

who's MOVING IN

- **Edward Stephan**, Sale Administrator Trainee for the Hood River RD on the Mt. Hood NF
- **Kathy Strawn**, GIS Mobile App Developer for R6\BLM
- **Kitty Tatersall**, Contracting Officer for the Umpqua NF
- **Tracy Tophooven**, Director of Recreation, Lands and Minerals for R6
- **Carlos Velez**, Project Engineer for the North Willamette Engineering Zone
- **Deirdre Whalen**, Regional Partnership Coordinator for R6

who's MOVING OUT

- **Terry Baker**, District Ranger for the McKenzie Bridge RD on the Willamette NF to Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Arapaho-Roosevelt NF
- **Michelle Caviness**, Supervisory Biological Resource Specialist for the Detroit RD on the Willamette NF to District Ranger for the Oklahoma RD on the Ouachita NF (R8-OK)
- **Maia Enzer**, Regional Partnership Coordinator for R6 to Planning and Public Engagement Specialist for the WO-Ecosystem Management



who's MOVING OUT

- **Terry Godin**, Archaeologist for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF to Archaeologist for the BLM (Northwest Oregon)
- **Lisa Helmig**, Forest Silviculturist for the Willamette NF to Planning and Resources Staff Officer for the Shawnee NF (R9-IL)
- **Lori Johnson**, Resource Specialist for the Willamette NF to Resource Specialist for the Kaibab NF (R3-AZ)
- **Tami Kerr**, Timber Program Manager for the Crescent RD on the Deschutes NF to Supervisory Forester for the Flathead NF (R1-MT)
- **Jose Linares**, Director of Engineering for R6 to NW Oregon District Manager for the BLM (Salem, OR)
- **Andre Silva**, District Wildlife Biologist for the Tiller RD on the Umpqua NF to District Wildlife Biologist for the Jemez and Cuba RD on the Santa Fe NF (R3-NM)
- **Chris Wagner**, Botanist for the Detroit RD on the Willamette NF to Biological and Environmental Specialist for the March Airforce Base (CA)

pacific northwest region RELEASES ANNUAL REPORT

National Forests benefit communities across the Pacific Northwest in countless ways, from economic benefits, recreation opportunities, clean drinking water, habitat for fish and wildlife, and so much more.

To help celebrate and showcase all of your hard work and many contributions we've released the [2016 Annual Report](#) and accompanying [Interactive Story Map](#).

- Over 660,000 service hours were donated by 9,400 volunteers at a value of \$15,562,249.
- Partners matched 84 cents to every Forest Service dollar and together we accomplished more than we ever could have on our own.
- An estimated 1,000 jobs were created or maintained and \$94 million in local income was generated by five different Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration projects in Oregon and Washington. Fuels were reduced on 146,380 acres and over 10 miles of stream habitat was improved or restored.
- Over \$1.4 million of Special Forest Products sold:
 - 47,500 Christmas Trees
 - 2,600 tons of boughs
 - 52,000 bushels of cones
 - 2,600 tons of salal and other foliage
 - 1,400 tons of beargrass
 - 372,000 gallons of mushrooms
 - 66,000 pounds of huckleberries
- Over 145,000 youth engaged through programs such as Every Kid in a Park, 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, NatureWatch, Youth Engagement Strategy, Conservation Education, internships and volunteer events.
- Over 1,500 youth and 80 veterans employed through the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps.



who's MOVING OUT

- In the Pacific Northwest approximately 44% of the stream flow in Washington and 36% of the stream flow in Oregon originate on National Forest lands. This water supports millions of municipal, industrial, and agricultural users.
- Hydroelectric power utilities located on National Forests in
- Oregon and Washington produce nearly 25 billion kilowatt hours of electricity per year, providing enough electricity for 2.1 million homes and contributing to over \$2.5 billion to the economies of Oregon and Washington.

Read the full report and interactive story map at <https://go.usa.gov/xXYg9>

who's MOVING ON

- **Matt Wiebe**, Forestry Technician for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF to Timber Sale Administrator for the Sandpoint RD on the Idaho Panhandle NF's (R1-ID)for R6
- **Larry Bowden**, Timber Sale Prep for the Middle Fork RD on the Willamette NF
- **Mike Brooker**, CIO Desktop Support Staff sitting on the Umpqua NF
- **Kristie Miller**, District Ranger for Sisters RD on the Deschutes NF
- **Raven Reese**, Public Affairs Intern for the Mt. Hood NF
- **Ed Sherwood**, Administrative Support Clerk for the Sweet Home RD on the Willamette NF
- **Kathleen Stejskal**, Law Enforcement Program Assistant for the Western Oregon Zone (Siuslaw\ Willamette NF's)
- **Lupe Wilson**, Forestry Technician and Fleet Manager for the Sweet Home RD on the Willamette NF

leading by example with THE CHIEF'S HONOR AWARDS

It's important to celebrate our accomplishments and achievements, so it brings us great pleasure to announce that our Region was the recipient of not one but two Chief's Honor Awards.

Valuing People and Places was honored with the "Excelling as a High Performing Agency" award for successfully developing and implementing key strategies for strengthening internal and external connections in the Pacific Northwest Region.

Every Kid in a Park was bestowed the "Volunteerism and Service" award for helping to engage with over 70,000 fourth graders (14,000 in the Pacific Northwest alone) and to get them outside and onto public lands with a year of free access to Federal sites across land management agencies and the country.



Chief's Honor Awards — 2016 —

Honoring Service, Teamwork and Excellence

*The Jefferson Auditorium, South Building
Department of Agriculture*

Chief's Honor Award 2016: Valuing People and Places

Shoni Pilip-Florea, Rachel LaMedica, Lynn Burditt, Erick Stemmerman, Matt Burks, Peter Fargo, Gala Miller, Brad Tait, Candice Polisky, Casey Gatz, Francisca Voelker, Chris Bentley, Ryan Gregg, Claire Lavendel, Jude McHugh, Craig Newman, Sue Ripp, Brad Cownover, Cheryl Caplan, Jean Nelson-Dean, Michael Hamel, Gordie Blum, Scott Lynn, Matt Peterson, Jessica Roosevelt, Brad Siemens

Chief's Honor Award 2016: Every Kid in a Park

Jacqueline Emanuel, Joni Packard, Linda Hecker, Julie Padilla, Carol Ryan, Kathy Mick, Tim Williams, Brenna White, Jeff Mast, Kelly Balcarczyk, Dennis Krusac, Lisa Meyers, Annette Heckart, Becky Bittner, Linda Kruger, Brenda Strohmeier, Susan Cox, Barbara McGuinness, Kathryn Sosbe, Michael Hill, Al Remley, Heidi McAllister, Sandy Frost, Cindy McArthur, Sue Cummings, Kim Winter, Sean Wetterberg, Tamberly Conway, Ashley R. Williams, Torey Powell, Shandra Terry, Quintaniany Holifield and Elwood York



pacific northwest region

ANNUAL SAFETY AWARDS

We're fortunate to have a number of Regional Safety Award Winners once again this year, so please join us in congratulating the following employees:

Regional Forester's 2016 Safety Committee of the Year:

Clackamas River RD on the Mt. Hood NF

Laurence Olson, Aaron Pedersen, Lisa Northrup, and Jim DeMaagd

Regional Forester's Team Award for Excellence in Safety and Health:

Spirit Lake Tunnel Team on the Gifford Pinchot NF

Chris Strebig, Ted Huffman, Bodie Ronk, Deb Roy, Jonathan Berry, Gina Owens and Angie Elam

Regional Forester's Individual Award for Excellence in Safety and Health:

Mathew Marsh on the Tonasket RD of the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF

Regional Safety Manager's Special Recognition Safety Award:

Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program Team

Pacific Northwest Region Forest Safety Manager of the Year:

Lisa Rynearson on the Malheur NF

Back Row: Lisa Northrup, Jim DeMaagd, Laurence Olson, Matthew Marsh, Mike Williams, Jason Kuiken, Ryan Neal, Bodie Ronk

Middle Row: Chris Strebig, Deb Roy, Aaron Pedersen, Steve Beverlin, Buddy Byrd, Lisa Rynearson, Angie Elam

Front Row: Jonathan Berry, Gina Owens, Heidi Andersen, Ted Huffman





umpqua engineers win ANNUAL SAFETY AWARDS

The Umpqua NF has two engineers that were recently recognized with both National and Regional honors. Steve Marchi received both the National and Regional Managerial Engineer of the Year Award and Julie Jackson-Merritt was awarded Regional Technical Engineer of the Year.

"Steve demonstrates a management style that both encourages his managers to carry out their duties while providing a safety net and coaching when needed," said Alice Carlton, Forest Supervisor for the Umpqua NF. "He fully embraces communication and importance of relationships as core values."

Marchi is the staff officer in charge of engineering and also manages the recreation, heritage, land uses and mineral programs for the Umpqua NF. In this position he led with others in the "Integrated Resource Restoration" process that increased efficiency for the Forest as well as collaboration in the community.

Julie Jackson-Merritt serves as the Forest Bridge engineer and was recognized for her innovation, ability to apply new technology, coaching and dedication to solving problems. She processes permits allowing heavy loads on the Forest's bridges during timber haul and recently leveraged funds for a \$1.2 million bridge construction project that replaced an aging bridge that was detrimental to the environment.

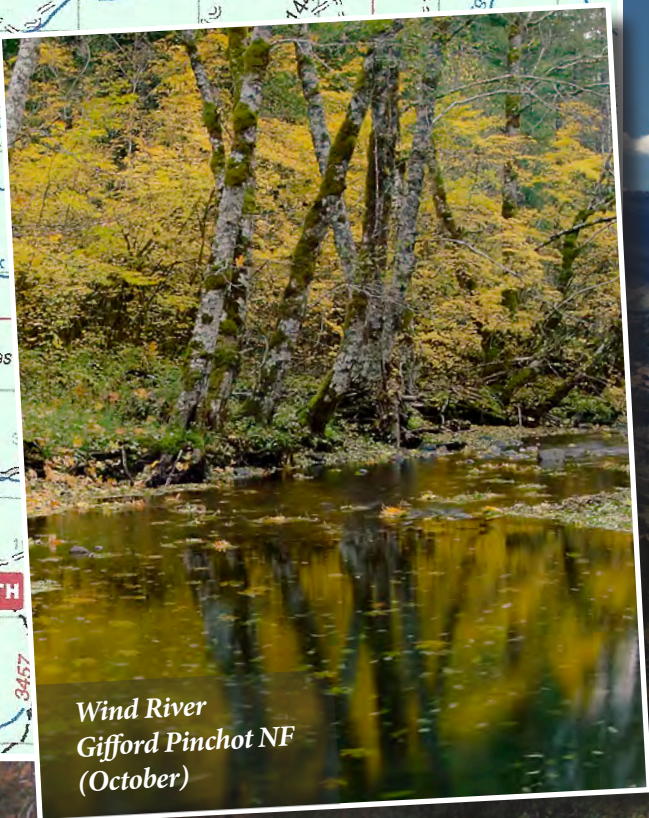
Congratulations for a job well done and keep up the outstanding work!

national wild turkey foundation MAKING TRACKS PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Recognizing his work for building incredibly strong partnerships, Monty Gregg of the Sisters RD on the Deschutes NF was awarded an Individual Partnership Achievement Award for his work with the Making Tracks partnership at the 41st Annual National Wild Turkey Foundation Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

His ability to leverage partnerships to enhance work across the Region has helped to enhance more than 900 acres including efforts on the Deschutes, Ochoco and Malheur National Forests, and his endless enthusiasm and dedication is to be commended.

where in the region PAST ANSWERS



Wind River
Gifford Pinchot NF
(October)



Summer Lake and Winter Rim
Fremont-Winema NF
(December)



Rogue River
Rogue River-Siskiyou NF
(August)

Another round of beautiful places wraps up this quarter's photo contest with outstanding scenery from throughout Washington and Oregon.

Please join us in congratulating the winner's of our quarterly Where in the Region photo contest.

1st Place:

Brett Carré on the Columbia River Gorge NSA
Jerry Messinger at the Redmond Air Center

2nd Place:

Kate Goossens on the Malheur NF
Patricia Johnson on the Wallowa-Whitman NF
Kenneth Kittrell for R6 out of Bend, OR
David Knutson on the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF
Kenneth Ratliff on the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF
Michael Starkovich on the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF



A very special thanks to **Jimmye Turner**, Fire Prevention Specialist, Walla Walla RD, Umatilla NF

where in the region ANSWER



Last issue's **Where in the Region** photo was **Summer Lake and Winter Ridge (or Rim)** as taken from the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

"At our feet, more than a thousand feet below, we looked into a green prairie country in which a beautiful lake, some twenty miles length, its shores bordered with green grass. Just then the sun broke out among the clouds and illuminated the country below while around the snow storm raged fiercely.

Not a particle of ice was to be seen on the lake, or snow on its borders, and all was like summer or spring. Shivering on snow three feet deep, and stiffening in a cold north wind, we exclaimed at once that the names of Summer Lake and Winter Ridge should be applied to these proximate places of such sudden and violent contrast."

-John C. Fremont; December 16, 1843

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A photograph of a large waterfall cascading down a rocky cliff. The surrounding forest is heavily covered in snow, and the waterfall itself is partially frozen, with ice hanging from the edges. The scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the falls.

where IN THE REGION

Win a prize for the most correct answers this quarter!
Using the following haiku,
try to figure out the location of the photo.

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

Second highest falls
in the state of Oregon
flowing to Portland