



Three Rivers Ranger District
Kootenai National Forest
Troy Montana
295-4693

Autumn 2014



THREE RIVERS NEWS



District Ranger Kirsten Kaiser and the YCC crew on a tour of Chapel Cedar in Troy.

Three Rivers Ranger District's 2014 Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew members were Kolton Winebark, Cody Johnston, Callan Peel, Allie Brown, Austin Bard, Nathaniel Britton, Brooke Slaven, Samantha Fossen, Michael Goe, Dustin Dickerson, Erin Landis, and crew leaders Haakon Karuzas and Ryan Thomason.

The YCC program historically has been a popular project recommended by the Lincoln County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) and was approved for summer 2014. The RAC reviews locally submitted project proposals that either improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure, implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems, or restore and improve land health and water quality. The group works collaboratively to improve working relationships among community members and national forest personnel. This summer there were 2 crews on the District.

The program is unique due to the fact that the crew is picked from a random draw. The Forest Service employs the crew for eight weeks; crew members need to be fifteen by the time the program starts and have not turned nineteen by the program's end. Filling out the simple application could lead to a great opportunity for students. Applications will be available in the spring from Mr. Palmer at Troy High School. The crew spent their time this summer pruning white pine trees, tree planting, assisting with the NorthWest Peaks Whitebark Pine cone caging adventure, animal damage control (netting) maintenance, spraying deer repellent in our Ferrell Flats plantation, and clearing brush from roads needed to access Pre-Commercial Thinning contract units. They cleared trails, constructed brush piles and opened the view at the outdoor classroom at Alvord Lake. They raked and hauled forest debris at Spar Lake Campground, hauled and piled slash from the micro-burst in the Yaak River Campground and performed ground maintenance at several camp grounds.

O'Brien/Lower Yaak Planning Area (Oly) Project

The Three Rivers Ranger District is in the process of analyzing the Lower Yaak, O'Brien, Sheep Planning area, an area of the district which includes: China Creek, Lynx Creek, Rabbit Creek, O'Brien Creek, Kilbrennan Lake, Arbo Creek, Pulpit Mountain and Yaak Mountain areas. The Lower Yaak, O'Brien, Sheep Project is being developed to promote healthy stands of early-seral species including western larch, white pine, and ponderosa pine as well as healthy stands of Douglas-fir. The desired condition is where vegetation would be resilient and adapted to fire, insect and disease. The project area includes 34,911 acres within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Vegetation within the WUI provides for defensible space and firefighter safety in the vicinity of homes within the project area. A mosaic of diverse, productive habitats would be available to provide both cover and forage for wildlife species. Prescribed fire would be used to promote the growth and development of large trees and snags as well as provide forage and snag habitat in a mosaic pattern with areas of cover. The project is also designed to maintain and improve water quality through road stabilization activities and seeks to provide wood products to the local and regional economies.

You may comment at any time during the planning process. However, the earlier we receive comments and information, the more useful they will be. For more information, contact Leslie McDougall at (406) 295-4693. You can submit comments by email to comments-northern-kootenai-three-rivers@fs.fed.us or mail written comments to District Ranger, Kirsten Kaiser, Three Rivers Ranger District, 12858 US Hwy 2, Troy, MT 59935. To ensure consideration in the project analysis, concerns must be received by November 6th, 2014.

There will be an open house at the Three Rivers Ranger District office on November 4th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

DISTRICT EDUCATION EVENTS



Ben Bernall and Cindy Betlach educating children during the 5th grade field day at Alvord Lake in May.

Pat Shira is retiring after 32 + years with the Forest Service.



Pat Shira with Leslie McDougall and Connie Tisher



Smokey Bear and Lisa Osborn with Kootenai Valley Head Start kids in Troy.



Smokey Bear and friends getting ready for the Troy Homecoming Parade October 2014.

Pat has been a valued member of the district because of her concern for quality implementation of resource management projects and the energy and dedication she brings to the job. Pat will be greatly missed by her Forest Service friends but the community will continue to benefit from her services to the Troy Volunteer Ambulance crew. Thanks, Pat for all you have done during your career with the Forest Service and all that you will continue to do with the Troy Ambulance. When asked what she plans to do in retirement Pat said " Anything I want when I want". Pat plans to garden, travel and take it easy. We wish you well and hope you enjoy your retirement.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE REGION AND NATION

The Northern Region (Region 1) of the USDA Forest Service issued a new Regional Forester's Order that restricts the use of explosives and exploding targets on all NFS lands in Region 1, including but not limited to lands, waters, roads, trails or interests therein administered by the Forest Service. The purpose of the order is to enhance public safety, and to protect our natural resources and property by restricting the use of explosives and exploding targets. The widening use of exploding targets on our National Forests and Grasslands has led to serious injuries, catastrophic wildfires, destruction of property and a significant loss and/or damage to our natural resources. This order provides authority for FS law enforcement officials on all Forests/Grasslands in Region 1 to enforce this restriction and to enhance our ability to protect our natural resources and the people who use them. For more information contact the district at 295-4693.

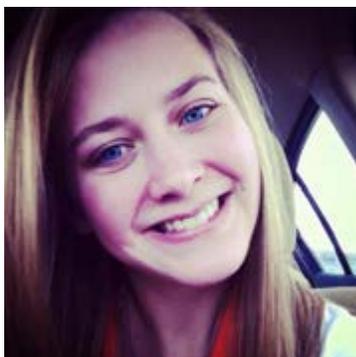
Forest and District maps are now available for your mobile devices go to iTunes or Android PlayStore search "PDF Maps". Find the Avenza PDF Maps app and download (free). Each device may have slightly different labels than shown. Maps that are available on Avenza PDF maps mobile app include: Kootenai NF Cabinet RD, Kootenai NF Libby RD front (North), Kootenai NF Libby RD back (South), Kootenai NF Rexford RD Fortine, Kootenai NF Three Rivers RD



2014 FOREST SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS—The following students were awarded scholarships by the employees association from the Three Rivers Ranger District to attend a college or university of their choice.



Erich Tallmadge is attending George Fox University in Newberg, OR



Makaylin Randall is attending Simmons College in Boston, MA.



Kellie Lundin is attending Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, ID.

TROY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) awarded a \$50,000 grant to Troy Public schools to assist with installation of a high-efficiency wood pellet boiler system at the high school campus. These funds were made available through a sub-award from the USDA Forest Service. The installation of the boiler will complete the goal of heating the entire school district with local renewable wood pellets. The district installed a wood pellet system at the elementary school in 2008 which has proven to be a great asset.

WHO'S IN THE NEWS

Rachel Reckin—District Archeologist. Rachel was selected as a Gates Scholar to attend Cambridge University in England. The Gates Cambridge Scholarships are one of the most prestigious international scholarships in the world. There are only 50 a year awarded to US students. While at Cambridge, Rachel will pursue her PhD in Archeology. Despite the relative youth of the program, Gates Cambridge Alumni are increasingly taking on leadership roles and applying their knowledge and skills to improve the lives of others. Rachel is a graduate of Libby High School and University of Puget Sound and University of Wyoming.



Forest Service Mission: To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

RECREATION

Three Rivers Ranger District hired Dave Thorstenson and Ben Bernall in recreation and trails when Mark Mason and Cindy Betlach retired this spring. Mark and Cindy ran a great program and everyone was sad to see them go, rumor has it they're having a blast in retirement.



Kellie and Katie Lundin at Bad Medicine Campground

Kellie and Katie Lundin started this year in recreation and spent their weeks learning the fine art of cutting grass, counting money and actively listening to the needs of campground hosts. The District collected nearly \$48 thousand in campground and rental fees, we received 95% of the money back to hire employees and improve sites. The Forest had its first yurt rental this summer; it's located on the Yaak River at

Whitetail Campground. Steve Reid, John McCrate, Jeremy Helmrick, Lucas Jones, Zack McDougal and Nathan Olds were members of the trail crew. We did not use mules or horses



Lucas, John, Jeremy and Zach atop Grambauer Mtn.

Back Country Horsemen helped by completing 20 miles of the overall total which was much appreciated. The Montana Conservation Corps helped brush North Creek Beetle Creek Snowmobile Trail. The trail was a very difficult "alder jungle" and the Corp was just short of finishing it. Thank you to Tom Rawlings, Teagan Blaz and the Kootenai Helitack crew who helped the District complete the Beetle Project. Haakon Karuzas and Ryan Thomason and their YCC crews did a fantastic job supporting the trails and rec program: trails were cleared, slash was piled, campsites were cleaned and blowdown debris was removed. Thanks YCC you were great!

The July 23rd micro-burst left Yaak River Campground and other district areas littered with many down and damaged trees. Amazingly no one was injured when the



storm went through the campground. Picnic tables and a few RV awnings didn't fare so well. There were numerous stories of close-calls so we considered ourselves lucky that nothing serious happened. Ed and Stephanie Gunter (Yaak River Hosts) marveled at how hard the FS crews worked to clean up the blowdown. A special thanks to everyone that pitched in to help Ben Bernall and his crew get the campground cleaned up...spectacular job!



Nathan Olds cleans Garver Mtn. Lookout rental prior to opening

YURT Rental at Whitetail Campground on the Yaak River

Rental Fee is \$15.00 per night

For Reservations -Contact Three Rivers Ranger Station at 406-295-4693

16 foot diameter Yurt accommodates about 5 sleepers

The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNNST) was a priority to clear and sign in the summer of '14. The PNNST is 1200 miles long; it starts at the Continental Divide and ends at the Pacific Ocean. The PNNST travels through the entire north end of Three Rivers Ranger District. We're encountering people from all over the U.S. hiking the PNNST. We've implemented check-in boxes to find out who they are and where they come from and how we can make it better.