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# News Release

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## **Klamath National Forest to Participate in Rose Parade**

**Yreka, CA** –U.S. Forest Service rangers, firefighters and volunteers will participate in the 126<sup>th</sup> annual Rose parade in Pasadena on January 1<sup>st</sup>. This year the Forest Service celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act while highlighting the historic role of packers in supporting wildland firefighters and other backcountry operations, as well as acknowledging the outstanding contributions made by National Forest volunteers. The last time the Forest Service participated in the Rose parade was a decade ago when the agency celebrated its centennial.

Six employees from the Klamath National Forest will be participating in support roles for the Forest Service Parade entry. The all mule equestrian entry will include an entourage of Forest Service Rangers and Smokey Bear riding atop an authentic 19<sup>th</sup> century wagon, anchored by three-mule pack strings, a mounted color guard and a fire crew that will walk alongside.

Ellen Andrews Dan Hendrickson and Emily Tornroos from the Salmon Scott Ranger District and Allen Schroeder from the Happy Camp Oak Knoll Ranger District will be working as part of the team supporting the mules and the packers. Kerry Greene and Togan Capozza from the Klamath Supervisor's Office will be on hand to greet the public and answer questions at the Forest Service booths pre and post parade.

The Forest Service parade entry is unique in that these mules are working pack animals, having come off the frontlines of supporting wildfires across Northern California and the Klamath National Forest for several months this last summer and fall. The mules are used for long treks into wilderness areas to resupply firefighters and wilderness rangers.

"The Klamath National Forest is proud to be supporting the Forest Service Rose Parade Entry this year." said Forest Supervisor Patty Grantham. The entry represents the nearly 35,000 Forest Service Employees and tens of thousands of volunteers who make up our workforce nationwide. "This year I am particularly proud of our employees, volunteers and partners contributions during one of the most harrowing fire seasons experienced on the Klamath National Forest and in Siskiyou County in history."

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