

## Boots in the Forest

# DISTRICT RANGER

Hi, I'm Mary Faurot, the Cascade District Ranger on the Boise National Forest. My job requires a variety of footwear, as I never know exactly what I'll be doing each day. I might be in the field working on salmon restoration or banding hawks. Or, I could be in the office working with the employees of the Cascade Ranger District to solve a problem or make a decision.

### Where were you when this photo was taken?

On the Cascade Ranger District of the Boise National Forest in Idaho.

### What were you doing that day?

I was helping our wildlife biologist prepare a trap for winter wolverines.

### What kind of training or education do you need for this job?

While there is a variety of career paths that can lead you to being a district ranger, I studied marine biology at Florida State University and Fish and Wildlife Management in graduate school at Montana State University.

### What is a typical day for you?

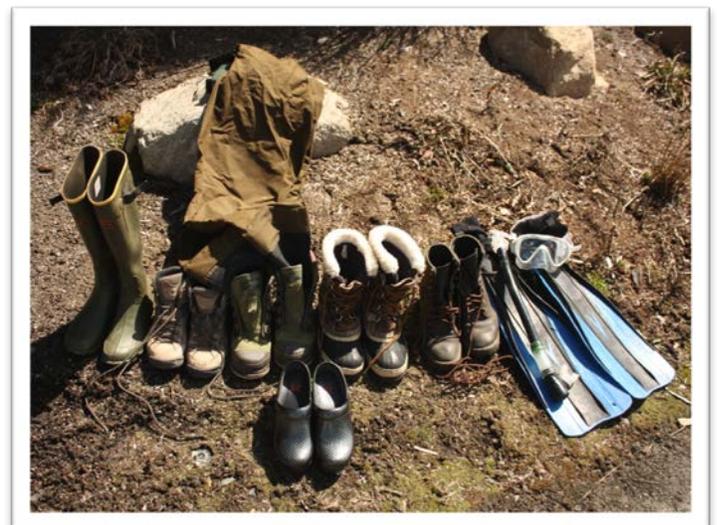
There are two typical kinds of days for me. One is in the field interacting with and observing a unique attribute of the District. The other is in the office working with people to make progress toward common goals. As a district ranger, I'm tying everything together—all the disciplines that make the district function, not only the employees but the public as well.

### What kind of footwear do you typically wear?

I wear a wide variety of shoes: everything from hiking boots to clogs to wading boots—even fins on occasion!

### What do you like most about your job?

I like relating to people, forming relationships, and getting things accomplished to “care for the land and serve the people.” During the past ten years of my career, some of my favorite work, both as a fish biologist and as a district ranger, has been in partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe. We've been working to restore salmon habitat by reconnecting



*Mary has worn a wide selection of footwear over the course of her career.*

salmon grounds previously disrupted by culverts and road systems. We're removing unnecessary roads, which often contribute to sediments that flow into streams. This restoration work and partnership with the Nez Perce is one of the more rewarding things I do.

### If you had to pick another occupation, what would it be?

If I wasn't a district ranger or fisheries biologist, I would pick a career as a university professor: researching aspects of ecology, relating that to the real world, and educating future biologists and land managers.

[Read the full article](#)

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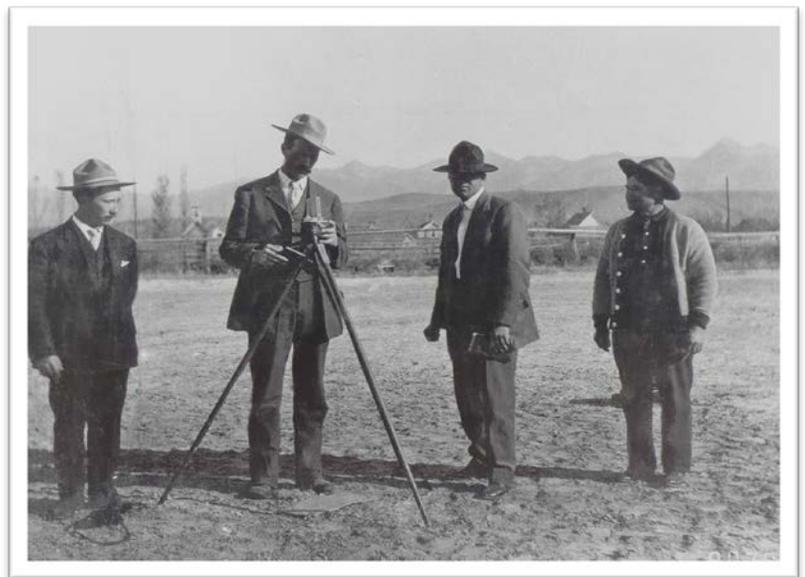
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## RANGER EXAM

Today's district rangers come from a variety of backgrounds. In the early days of the Forest Service, you had to pass a test—both written questions and field exercises—to become a ranger. John Riis, an early ranger on the La Sal National Forest described the field test:

“For two days the examiners harried us. We rode to demonstrate our horsemanship and shot at a post while on the gallop to prove our marksmanship. We packed a horse and threw the diamond hitch, did some simple surveying, cut down trees, trying to fall them on a stake set by the examiner, mapped and estimated timber land, made out bills of lumber, camp supplies and many other things.”

Do you think you could have made the cut? Find out by taking the [1908 exam](#) or the [1925 exam](#).



*Early ranger exam in Salmon, Idaho*