

SourDough Notes



**U.S. Forest Service
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ON THE COVER:

An angler fishes in the spring snow for steelhead trout on the Situk River on the Yakutat Ranger District. Photo by Nathaniel Catterson. Story begins on page 3.

SourDough Notes

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Submissions: SourDough Notes is written for people interested in the Alaska Region. Your suggestions, articles, and photographs are welcome. Please contact:

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Articles should be no more than 800 words and may be edited. Submitted articles may not all be printed. Submitted digital photos should be sent as high resolution TIF or JPG. Please contact the Public Affairs Office if you have questions.

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Changing the Way We Do Business

By Cynthia Lagoudakis, Tongass Land Management Planner

You may not know much about "PALS," but it is a system that is changing in a way that may prove useful to anyone in the agency who is planning a project. Coming soon will be a way to attach NEPA documents to records in the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System that will provide a Forest Service-wide NEPA library that

any Forest Service employee will be able to search.

Want to know how another district or forest approached a particular project? You will be able to check out their planning documents in PALS. Changes to the system will also provide automatic web publishing of information. The rollout is anticipated for sometime this summer.

Yakutat Steelhead: Reel-Sizzling Strength

By Nathaniel Catterson, Biological Technician, Yakutat Ranger District



Yakutat Mayor Dave Stone catches a nice steelhead.



Close up view of steelhead



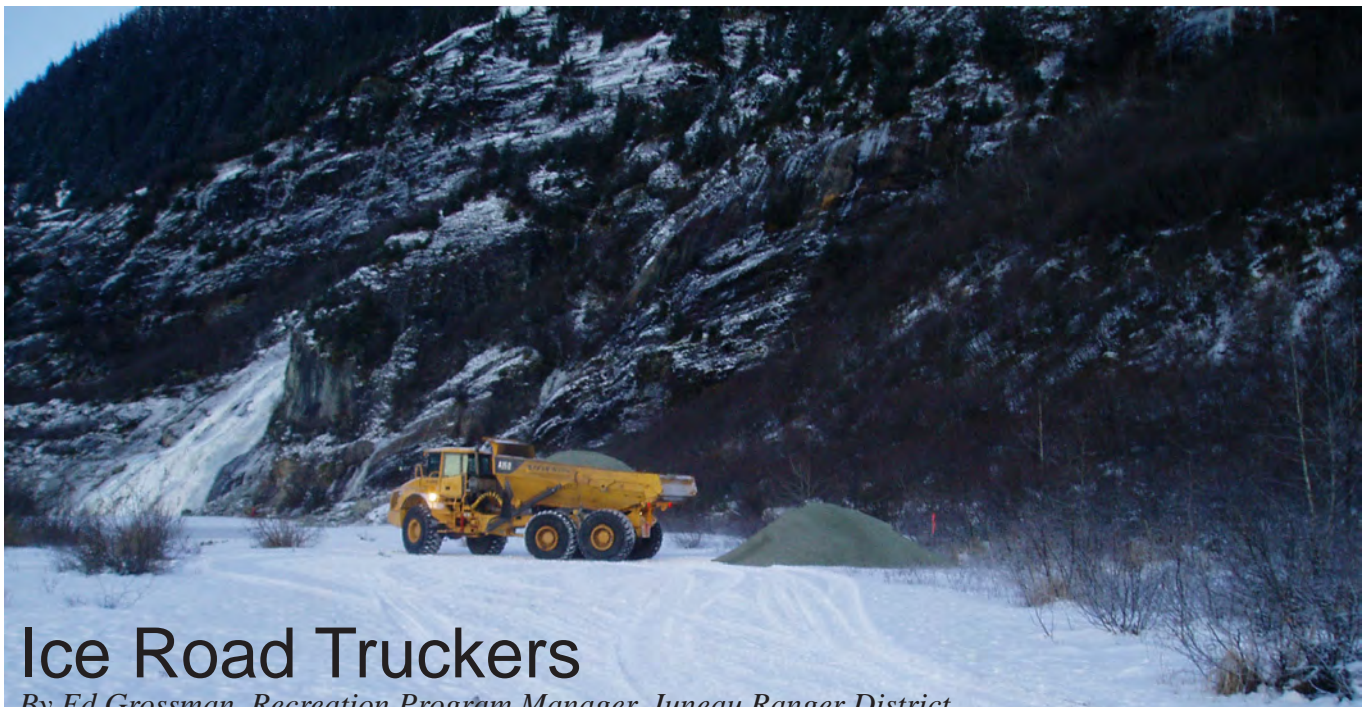
*Angler practices "catch and release" steelhead.
All photos by Nate Catterson.*

If there is one game fish that really gets anglers' blood pumping in the Pacific Northwest, it's the steelhead. These sea run rainbow trout are known for their size and reel-sizzling strength. A 30-inch steelhead fresh from the ocean can leave even the most experienced angler fumbling with a broken line, wondering what happened. And the fish get considerably bigger than that!

What a lot of people don't know is that one of the world's largest, wild runs of steelhead occurs in the Tongass National Forest on the Yakutat Ranger District. What a lot of people don't know, serious anglers do. Get off the jet in Yakutat in April and May you'll find yourself among a cosmopolitan crowd of GoreTex-clad "sporties" as they are known locally. These are not your average weekend fisherman. You might hear German, Italian, or Japanese spoken on the river and about town. They come with thousands of dollars of finely tuned equipment. They come to camp in the snow and stand in 35-degree water just for a chance, and it's not a guarantee, at catching a steelhead in the Situk River.

The Forest Service recognizes this world-class resource (steelhead are just one act in the anadromous show going on the Tongass's most productive river) and contributes to the Situk's cooperative management in a variety of ways. The Yakutat Ranger District special uses program manages outfitter guides for a balance of services while retaining the quality of experience people expect from a trip to a remote Alaskan river. To provide access, the recreation program maintains a network of trails and cabins along the Situk River. The fisheries and wildlife program staffs the river with two seasonal river rangers. The rangers perform a variety of duties including collecting monofilament fishing line to be recycled, talking to anglers about bear safety, picking up trash, and just being out there making contact and emphasizing angler conservation and etiquette. Recent watershed projects have included stream bank restoration, road decommissioning, and wetland restoration.

With the help of the Forest Service, the future of the fishery looks bright. A new camping area has been designed and readied for construction at the Nine Mile Bridge. Planning has begun for an additional access trail. Ongoing monitoring, restoration and fish passage projects are in the pipeline. With any luck, the steelhead and the anglers who pursue them will continue to migrate to the Yakutat Ranger District every spring. After all, the economic benefits to the community of Yakutat are like the steelhead: strong.



Ice Road Truckers

By Ed Grossman, Recreation Program Manager, Juneau Ranger District

Everything is tougher in Alaska, right? Especially in winter! Well, maybe not everything. For example: walking on water. Moving gravel can also be done more efficiently when water is hard. Residents of Juneau are familiar with the saying, “Don’t Hibernate, Celebrate!” This is to say there are positives to the winter season, even for trail building.

The Nugget Falls Trail is currently under construction at the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area. This 0.8-mile fully accessible pathway will spur off of the Photo Point Trail near the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center and will take you along the east side of the lake to the scenic and thunderous Nugget Falls.

The trail is being built in response to public demand, as getting close to the falls has long been a desire of visitors. Currently, there is an unimproved route along the lakeshore, but it is subject to flooding, and leads summer visitors too close to a bird colony where disturbance of nesting birds by people and pets can become a daily occurrence. There are also a few trickier

spots along the way where visitors have been injured.

The State of Alaska and the Forest Service are partners on the Nugget Falls Trail project. Funding is through an Alaska Trails Initiative grant and by fees returned to the Forest Service from outfitters and guides. Work on the trail began last summer, and included clearing vegetation, laying fabric, and moving gravel. There are a few technical challenges along the trail that require construction of bridges, moving large boulders, and the assembly of an elevated walkway. Petersburg Engineer Alan Murph and Sitka Landscape Architect Darin Martins are drafting the structural designs for the walkway.

In January, Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Director Ron Marvin made an interesting observation. Trail Crew Leader Peter Cross was one of the few people at the Juneau Ranger District celebrating when the mercury went sub-zero. His reason? As the temperatures bottomed out at -17°F, Peter’s plans were implemented to mobilize gravel to the far reaches of the Nugget Falls Trail.

By staging materials in the winter, this minimized impacts to summer visitors, nesting birds, vegetation, and shallow soils. Also the frozen conditions allowed for shorter trips, reducing costs.

In order to transport gravel down from the Photo Point Trail and then traverse the terrain along the frozen shores of Mendenhall Lake, a special 35 ton, six-wheel drive, articulating truck was used. The Juneau Empire captured the event with a photo, and the caption read “Ice Road Truckers.”

Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center visitation now exceeds 400,000 people annually, thus the Nugget Falls Trail quite possibly may become the highest used trail on the Tongass National Forest. Thanks to winter conditions, the field season has been jump-started. We are hoping to complete the trail by the end of summer. Finishing touches, such as interpretive signs and benches, may come at a later date.

Stay tuned for more news worth celebrating on this new and exciting trail in future issues of *SourDough Notes*.

Birding in Their Own Backyard

By Susan Oehlers, Wildlife Biologist, and Nate Catterson, Fisheries Technician, Yakutat Ranger District

Every spring in the first week in May, 7-12th grade students and teachers in the Yakutat School system take advantage of the end of winter with “Outdoors Week.” Students get out into the longer warmer days with instruction in a variety of outdoor activities. The Yakutat Ranger District has long played an active role in the fun, such as: supplying canoes, helping out with hunter safety, teaching bear safety and survival, and housing visiting instructors. This year, we added a new activity: birding.

With a variety of habitats easily accessible around town, Yakutat is a birder’s paradise. In short field trips around town, class groups counted over 35 species of birds. At Cannon Beach bridge, we spied ring-necked ducks, a rare breeder in Southeast Alaska, and were entertained by a mink that seemed acutely unconcerned about our presence. Favorites included white fronted geese, hooded mergansers, and vociferous cranes, but the real stars were the shorebirds.

The shorebird migration was in full swing. Right in town, Sandy Beach hosted western and least sandpipers, dunlin, and a red-necked phalarope. At a rocky beach near the Old Village, students were treated to several hundred black and ruddy turnstones and surfbirds. Continuing on to the Lagoon, we added greater yellow legs, black bellied plovers and short billed dowitchers to our birder’s check-list.

Shorebirds with their odd shaped bills, vibrant plumage and skittering movements on spindly legs are particularly fun to observe. I think the kids like them too. Of course, we also cooped the kids up in a classroom for a little while and talked to them about another one of Yakutat’s star bird species, Aleutian terns.

The younger students got their turn during Sea Week, where we ventured further out of town to the Lower Situk Landing to view shorebirds. A flock of mixed geese provided continual viewing opportunities, while shorebirds passed through on their northward migration. Terns were visible across the estuary on Black Sand Spit. We ventured back into the woods to listen for songbirds, where students learned the



Yakutat students wander along the shore to identify their favorite birds. Photo by Nate Catterson.



Yakutat students take the classroom outdoors to sample the rich birding opportunities in their own backyard. Photo by Nate Catterson.

importance of birding during the early morning hours! We’re still working on the importance of being quiet.

We were fortunate to have such nice weather for our birding trips, and were glad to have the opportunity to “show-off” our abundant bird viewing opportunities to local students that might not otherwise have any clue what is available in their own “backyard.” We hope to make these birding trips, along with the great weather and great kids, an annual tradition.

All Aboard for the Begich, Boggs Team!

By Maureen DeFrance, Interpretation & Education, Glacier Ranger District



Left: Nick Racine speaks at Mt. St. Helen's. Photo by Gregg Pohl. Right: Maureen DeFrance goes to China.

Until recently, the crew that handles a lot of work on the Glacier Ranger District—the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center; partnership narration for several private boating companies; the Alaska Railroad; classroom liaison relationships with the Anchorage School District; roving patrols; guided ranger talks; walks; and oh yes, let's not forget the summer seasonal staff (Whew!)—was critically understaffed. Two of the four-person team had gone on to new opportunities and left this hefty job in the hands of two people.

Although Lezlie Murray and Stephanie Israel doggedly held down, and even grew the program, relief has come with the addition of two new staff members. Nick Racine and I have joined the team to help guide and enhance Glacier Ranger District Interpretive and Education Programs.

Nick Racine is no stranger to the National Forest System, or even to the Chugach National Forest. After graduating from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in Forestry (with an emphasis in Outdoor Rec-

reation Resource Management), Nick spent a summer at Chugach National Forest as a seasonal interpreter. After leaving Alaska that fall, he worked subsequent seasons at the Shawnee National Forest, Mount St. Helen's National Volcanic Monument, Mt. Hood National Forest and for the Carlsbad Caverns National Park. His duties varied at these locations, and included conservation education, interpretation, wilderness inventory, forestry technician and even a stint as a fire protection officer. Nick received a National Association of Interpretation student scholarship in 2003 and the Best New Interpreter Award for Mt. St. Helen's in 2004.

He never lost his enthusiasm, or sight of his goal. His lifelong dream and all his hard work were leading him to a permanent career in the field of interpretation. His years of preparation paid off, and Nick was hired as a front line supervisor in the Chugach National Forest's Interpretation and Education Program. His love for Alaska will be shared with his wife, Holly, as they both settle into life in this great state.

I, on the other hand, have never worked for the national forests. Both my Bachelor's and Master's degrees were in education. I became a full time teacher in Brighton Area School in Brighton, Mich. In my 24 years of teaching, I taught middle school math and science, at-risk middle school, and was a general classroom teacher in grades two, four, and five. For a period of 7 years, I worked in marketing for AT&T, but returned to my love—teaching. I traveled overseas with students for 5 summers and visited Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England—the ultimate field trip!

After retiring from teaching last June, my husband Dave and I traveled for 8 months. During that time, we discussed our next adventure. I felt strongly that working for the Forest Service or the National Park Service was a passion worth the pursuit. I was hired as a front line supervisor in the Chugach National Forest Interpretation and Education Program for the. The ability to combine teaching and my love of the out-

doors is a dream come true, and the chance to open up the mystery of the outdoors to children is a lifelong passion.

Both Nick and I cannot believe what surrounds us as we look out the window. Alaska is the ultimate playground, and our new jobs are the opportunity of a lifetime.

So why the Chugach? It can be summed up easily. The quality of the people on the team and their commitment to support one another to provide unified, seamless, outstanding service to the public is a definition of the ultimate team.

When you are affiliated with the best, it's hard to imagine being anywhere else!

Bear Viewing...Safely

By Sue Jennings, Writer/Editor, Tongass National Forest

Wilderness Field Manager John Neary, visited Hoonah in May to speak to the Icy Strait Point regular “bear tour” guides, other guides, and Icy Strait Point bear expert Owen James. Icy Strait Point is a cruise ship destination in Hoonah managed by the Hoonah Totem Corporation. During a morning presentation, John discussed with the guides and Forest Service personnel how the process of habituation can affect bear behavior. He answered questions and explain some of the bear behavior observed around Hoonah, for example, why bears move to slide areas in the fall even though fish are still in the streams. (Bears move to the slide areas in the fall to eat berries, including devil’s club berries, because it helps clean the parasites out of their stomachs that they acquired from eating raw fish.

In the afternoon, John and the guides visited Spasski Creek to walk the trail used for bear viewing in order to discuss scenarios that tour groups experience with bears. In most bear



John Neary indicates bear viewing area at Spasski Creek to bear expert Owen James and other guides.

viewing areas, there are multiple close calls or concern areas around pinch points near platforms, blind corners, bedding areas or other places bears and people meet. John explained that the level of habituation among the bears would vary with multiple responses possible. Other factors to consider are the bear age, gender, presence of cubs, and the size of the tour group.

John focused on the dynamics of viewing wild bears safely, and on the responsibilities of strictly managing human food and travel when in bear areas. He touched on many other aspects of bear natural history with a particular focus on brown bear ecology and seasonal travel patterns. John’s presentation will help the bear guides and other guides answer questions from the cruise ship visitors this summer and will help them properly respond to some close calls with bears.

The Icy Strait Point crew appreciated his time and learned new things about bears.



John Neary discusses a bear-marked tree with Icy Strait Point guides.

Black Bear Hair Snares: DNA Study on POW

By Raymond Slayton, Wildlife Technician, Tongass National Forest

In 2007, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the Forest Service undertook a black bear DNA-based mark/recapture study on Prince of Wales Island. The study came about in part as a result of questions raised by the Craig and Thorne Bay Ranger Districts' Carrying Capacity Analysis of the sustainability of the current recreational bear harvest levels. Changes in bear harvest population trend indicators (sex ratios, skull size and age class) have resulted in ADF&G closures of road-accessed black bear hunting and a controlled use area designation for all of POW not accessed by foot from saltwater. The intent of this project is to improve understanding of POW black bear numbers, movement patterns, and habitat requirements. The project also attempts to gather information in anticipation of possible habitat limitation questions as a result of "red flags" noted in POW bear population dynamics.

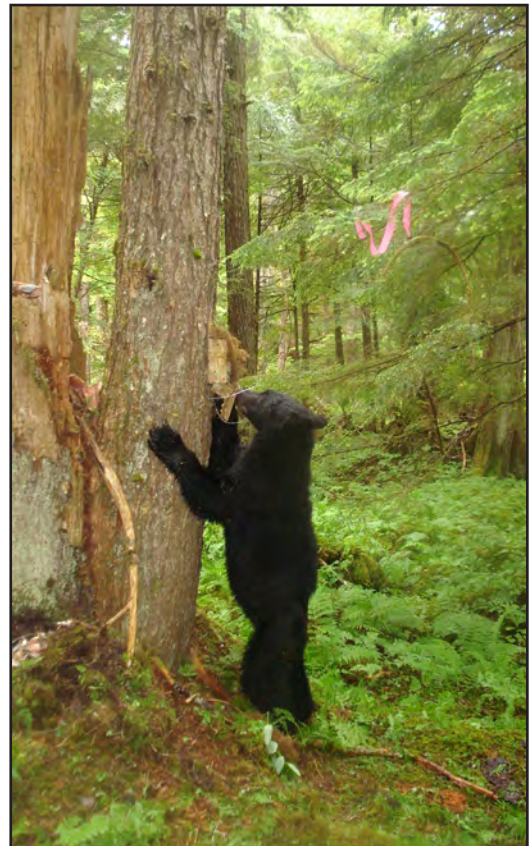
The mark/recapture method uses hair from free-ranging animals as a source of DNA to identify individual bears that is then compared to samples extracted by Alaska certified sealers from harvested bears. The study area includes the Thorne, Luck, Honker, Staney, Sweetwater and Ratz Creek drainages. The same road system that provides easy hunter access also provides the ability to access the study area using road vehicles and foot travel.

Two types of hair snares were used. The first snares were made of barbed wire held together with a small piece of soft rubber inner tube designed to pull apart with minimal tension, but snagging some loose hair in the process. These were set along bear trails and travel corridors

July through August. The second type of snare used small boxes with a pungent bait mixture fastened approximately six feet high on trees, with a loop of barbed wire positioned to gather hair as the bear investigates the box. The second type eliminated sampling from other wildlife, such as deer. The snares are nonlethal and will not harm or injure humans or other animals if encountered in the field.

Locations of snares are stored on handheld GPS units and recorded; hair from snares is placed in individual paper envelopes, and sent to a commercial laboratory for DNA extraction and individual identification. Recapture tissue is collected by ADF&G appointed sealers, using a leather punch to remove a small piece of hide and hair follicles for DNA testing. This sample is placed in a paper envelope at the time of sealing and marked with appropriate harvest data. These samples are then sent for DNA extraction and compared to our catalogue of known or marked individuals. Designated sealers will continue to collect samples from harvested bears during both spring and fall hunting seasons through Fall 2009. Over time, with enough recapture samples, it will be possible to calculate a population density estimate using Lincoln Peterson mark-recapture tools [methods for estimating population size].

Thirty-five individual black bears were identified from 111 hair samples. Six individual bears were captured by hair snares more than



Black bear at a hair snare. Photo by Boyd Porter, ADF&G

once. Of the genotyped bears from the summer 2007 hair snares, three bears were subsequently harvested by hunters, one the same autumn and two in Spring 2008. Within the sample area, 82 bears were sealed, but many 2008 samples were degraded as a result of heavy rains through much of the sample season.

Important questions:

- Are reductions in bear age classes a result of overharvest of black bear, or is stem excluded young growth [shaded out understory] failing to provide adequate forage?
- Was there a change in hunter harvest selection criteria or did we alter bear population age structure as a result of road access?

Although lack of forage is a serious issue, black bear have



Bear at Logjam Creek. Photo by Raymond Slayton.

additional forest structure needs as cavity nesters (primary excavators) that require large, heart rot (but live, wind firm) old growth for successful denning. A black bear

telemetry study conducted on Mitkof Island showed high volume old growth (commercial timber) as the most used habitat type by all bears in all seasons, and a separate study by Gene DeGayner found bears selecting for storm protected denning sites, which had stand characteristics that include more large (>88 cm) standing trees and older (>300 years old) trees than storm susceptible landscapes.

Weather and soil conditions of coastal Southeast Alaska are believed to exclude excavated denning sites as an alternative, and tree cavities provide significant thermal advantages as well as protection from dogs or wolves. In keeping with the Forest Service mandate to provide habitat capability to support state population objectives, it is hoped, over time, this collaborative project will provide accurate relative abundance levels and identify habitat limitations for Prince of Wales black bear.

A Mentor Makes a Difference

By Ross Evans, Information Receptionist, Sitka Ranger District

Imagine reporting for your first Forest Service assignment on the Tongass National Forest. While traveling to your duty station, you might see glaciers on the Juneau Icefield, or black bears fishing at the Anan Wildlife Observatory near Wrangell, or humpback whales bubble feeding a few yards from you as you are kayaking in Sitka Sound. Or maybe you are fortunate enough to work for the Chugach National Forest. Then, you might see the craggy peaks of the Chugach Mountains from the Lost Lake Trail north of Seward, or watch the bore tide race through Turnagain Arm from Beluga Point, or gaze on a rainbow over Mt. Alice on the Seward Ranger District.

The terrain and working conditions in Alaska can be challenging. The opportunity to quickly learn necessary skills and local knowledge can improve the safety and morale of new employees who transfer to Alaska from the Lower 48. One of the best ways to transfer this information is through a formal or informal mentoring program. Such a relationship can be a rewarding experience for both the mentor and the newcomer.

To begin an effective mentoring relationship, specific goals should be developed. These can include future positions the employee may be interested in, what locations the employee wants to work in, and what training opportunities are available. For example, a fish biologist trainee may set his or her sights on a future district-level staff officer position, completing the training and education geared toward a leadership role. A mentor can be a big help at this

stage, by using personal experience to recommend appropriate training and educational resources, and to help set a realistic timeline.

One of the most important contributions a mentor can make is to help a new employee successfully navigate the myriad of processes that are required by the USDA and the Forest Service. Having someone help a new employee through these processes can greatly reduce frustration.

I have seen a fine example of a positive mentoring relationship where I work. Two soil scientists on the Tongass joined into an informal relationship that proved to work well for the both of them. When Jacquie Foss was a trainee, she was assigned to the Wrangell Ranger District, specifically for the purpose of being paired with the then senior soil scientist, Jackie de Montigny. Foss was supervised by de Montigny for two years. Foss quickly learned from de Montigny how the district worked, how to develop a monitoring report, how to supervise seasonal employees, and how to implement NEPA. Foss is now a strong advocate of a mentoring program, especially when the work being done is meaningful and the new employee is gaining valuable knowledge from a seasoned professional.

Need a mentor? Talk with your supervisor or someone who demonstrates the technical and leadership qualities that you are looking for. Set your goals and work hard toward them, and you will reap the benefits.

Taking Care of Moody Mother Earth

By Jim Beard, Fisheries Biologist, Thorne Bay Ranger District

The Annual Prince of Wales Island Earth Day Celebration was held April 21 at the Craig Community Association Building in Craig. Driving to the event from Thorne Bay, I could not help but think about Gaia (a.k.a. Mother Earth) and how she can easily be mistreated by humans and our waste. During the hour long drive, she seemed to unleash a bit of her fury, as I passed through several types of bizarre weather, including rain, sleet and snow, hail, and occasional glimpses of blue sky and the sun peaking out from behind the clouds.

The theme of this year's Earth Day celebration was *Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle*. The celebration was hosted by the Craig and Thorne Bay Ranger Districts, as well as the Island Tribal Environmental Coalition, which consists of tribal environmental programs from the Craig Community Association, Klawock Cooperative Association, Organized Village of Kasaan, and Hydaburg Cooperative Association. In addition, the City of Thorne Bay, City of Craig, Prince of Wales Tribal Enterprise Consortium, and the Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation also participated.

Students from all four school districts on POW Island participated in the day-long celebration. Of the 433 people who attended, 367 were kids. The remaining 66 adults included teachers, teacher aides, and the general public. Woodsy Owl was a hit with the kids, and passed on the messages of *Lend a Hand, Care for the Land* and the *4 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot [Compost])*.



Brian Barr, Craig RD Hydrological Technician, instructs students in watershed dynamics using a stream table.

Forest Service booths and displays:

- *What is your Carbon Footprint?* Tori Houser, Craig RD Recreation Planner
- *Invasive Species*, Kristen Lease, POW Ecologist
- *Celebrating Wildflowers, their Medicinal, Aesthetic, and Subsistence Food Uses*, Brandy Prefontaine, Thorne Bay RD Fisheries Technician
- *Watershed Dynamics*, by Brian Barr, Craig RD Hydrological Technician
- *Salmon Recycling and Reuse*, Kevin Foley, Thorne Bay RD Fisheries Technician
- *POW Soils and Composting*, Becky Saari, Craig RD Soils Technician
- *POW Canopy Gap Studies*, Mike Ausman, Thorne Bay RD Wildlife Technician
- *Woodsy Owl and the 4 Rs*, Jim Beard, Thorne Bay RD Fisheries Biologist, and Craig student Steven Peavey

Other booths and displays:

- *Recycling Efforts in Craig and Reusable Lunch Boxes*, Craig Community Association
- *Smoke-Free Zones, Make Less Waste, and Paper Bag Coloring and Environment Education Coloring Books for Kids*; Klawock and Hydaburg Cooperative Associations
- *Recycling Efforts in Kasaan, and Trash 'N Fashion*, Organized Village of Kasaan
- *Simple Composting and Trash Compaction at the Thorne Bay City Dump*, City of Thorne Bay
- *Computer Recycling and Building Electronic Arms*, Prince of Wales Tribal Enterprise Consortium
- *Ocean Trash & Beach Debris*, Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation.



Woodsy Owl poses with kids at the 2009 Prince of Wales Island Earth Day Celebration in Craig.

Overall, the students and the public walked away with a heightened awareness about reducing, reusing, recycling, composting, carbon footprints, invasive species, and ways to efficiently use resources on POW Island. The Organized Village of Kasaan is to be commended as they are the first entity on POW Island to actively collect not only aluminum cans, but also paper, cardboard, plastics, and glass. The City of Thorne Bay's dump is unique in that it is the only entity on POW Island to compact, bale, and place its trash in cells, significantly saving landfill space. The City of Craig is using wood waste to heat the Craig elementary and middle schools and the city pool. Other cities and school districts on POW Island are also looking into the feasibility of using wood waste to reduce costs and consumption of fossil fuels.

Driving back to Thorne Bay after the event, I hoped that Gaia would appreciate the efforts beginning to take place on POW Island, and the seed that was planted in the kids and adults today. She even seemed to have lessened her fury, as the weather was much nicer on the drive back. During the following week, schools in both Craig and Thorne Bay worked with their respective city governments and conducted trash pickups in their towns. It looks like it is a good start toward shaping the stewards of today and tomorrow.

Champions of Civil Rights

By Barbara Stanley, Lands Specialist, Tongass National Forest

The Tongass Civil Rights Advisory Group is an employee group that champions the civil rights concerns and issues of all employees and promotes and embraces diversity in the workforce. We meet via monthly conference calls and hold biannual meetings with employees in different locations around the Tongass. Discussions with employees at listening sessions in Sitka and more recently, in Craig and Thorne Bay, focused on inter-generational communications and the challenges in recruiting and hiring a diverse workforce. In response to one of these issues, TCRAG will be co-sponsoring cross-generational communication training with Dr. Audrey Nelson at several locations this fall.



TCRAG facilitates and assists with special emphasis program activities such as the recent presentations in Ketchikan and Wrangell, given by survivors of the Hiroshima bombing (Toshika Nichols) and the Holocaust (Charlene Schiff). See their stories on page 18.

All Tongass employees are encouraged to contact any TCRAG member to discuss a civil rights issue, concern, or question. We look forward to meeting with Yakutat Ranger District employees in October.

2009 TCRAG members (left to right): Donna Pratt, Angie Lammers, Barbara Stanley, Karen Dillman, Ross Evans, Becky Nourse, and John Autrey. Eleanor Oman and Kari Vanderheuel were not present. Photo by Jeff DeFreest.

From Prince William Sound to the Arctic Ocean

By Entomologist John E. Lundquist and Asst. Director Steve Patterson, State & Private Forestry

Climate change and its impact to the health and sustainability of the Alaska forests is arguably one of the greatest future challenges for forest managers. Many believe that mortality caused by insects and diseases will be the major catalyst of these changes to the vegetation, and some scientists theorize that the spruce beetle epidemic in the 1990s in Southcentral Alaska was caused by climate change, but it cannot be substantiated. A common recognition among our stakeholders (forest landowners and managers of the 129 million for-

ested acres throughout Alaska) is that climate change impacts are already observable and will likely intensify.

Insects and diseases will likely respond to the changed environment and stress vegetation and thus play an early and key disturbance role in ecosystem responses. Invasive insect-, disease-, and plant-introductions and establishment also will pose a large threat to ecosystems, especially in the northern boreal forests with large stands and relatively low tree composition diversity.



A bio-indicator: the yellow headed sawfly

In response, Alaska Region Forest Health Protection and its collaborators will establish a study plot trapline, of sorts, in the form of a transect that crosses several hundred latitudinal miles from Seward and Prince William Sound in the south to a bit beyond the northern extent of conifers on this continent, nearly to Prudhoe Bay and the Arctic Ocean in the north. Our logic is to use latitude as a surrogate for climate change; namely, what is occurring in the south will be occurring sometime later in the north.

The short-term goal of this study is to develop analytical and predictive tools based on rapid life-cycling insect populations that are useful in understanding the effects of climate change in circumpolar northern forests. This study is designed to be an open-source research program where various collaborators can be involved in assessing the potential for different insect guilds as bio-indicators of climate change.

The long-term operational practical goal of this study is to generate the information needed to establish a long-term monitoring program and early warning system based on insect bio-indicators.



The latitudinal transect is designed to parallel one of the few road systems in Southcentral and Interior Alaska, which facilitates several visits of the permanent plots each year.

For information about Alaska Region Forest Health Protection of the Pacific Northwest Research Station efforts

in regard to climate change, check out these web sites:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/spf/fhp>, or

<http://fswweb.r6.fs.fed.us/pnw/ccstrategy/index.shtml>

A Horrible Cure! Making Devil's Club Salve

By Jim Case, Forestry Tech., Sitka Ranger District

Let's start with an oxymoron: *Oplopanix horridus*—the scientific name meaning “horrible cure for everything.” Most of us know devil's club as the plant that is most available to grab when seeking a handhold in steep terrain (hence, the “horrible”). And many of us in Alaska know of the proven curative properties of this plant (hence, the “panacea of cures”). Pojar and McKinnon, in Plants of the Pacific Northwest (B.C. Ministry of Forestry and Lone Pine Pub. 1994) list traditional Native American uses for this amazing and abundant plant. These time-honored remedies are used to treat: arthritis, ulcers, digestive tract ailments, diabetes, rheumatism, colds, and pain relief.

If you wish to try your luck preparing a soothing salve, it is a relatively easy process. The following instructions are based on a class taught by Patty Dick of Sitka, Alaska. I successfully used this method during a summer camp-fire program at Starrigavan Recreation Area. So devil's club salve can be prepared in a field setting in less than an hour. (Editor's note: Try at your own risk! Devil's club can be a painful skin irritant.)



- Handheld pruning shears
- A hank of *usnea* (old man's beard lichen)

Equipment/Ingredients

- Small paring or pocket knife
 - 1 to 2 oz. bee's wax
 - Cooking pot
 - 24" devil's club stalk cut into two pieces
 - 2-3 cup Pyrex measuring cup
 - 6 Tbs. olive oil
 - Camp or kitchen stove
 - Large coffee filter or cheesecloth
 - Wooden spoon or stirring stick
 - 1 Vitamin E caplet
 - Small jar (like a pimento jar)
 - 2 drops tea tree oil
 - Container label for jar
 - Water
 - Garden or leather gloves
 - Plastic coffee filter cone
 - Pot holder
 - Ceramic coffee cup
1. Place the pot on a heat source (I used a Whisperlite camp stove) and begin heating water.

Process

2. Put olive oil and a hand full of *usnea* into the Pyrex measuring cup. Place the measuring cup in water, inside the cooking pot.
3. Respectfully cut the devil's club from a tall living plant with pruning shears. (1/2 to 3/4-in. diameter stalks, or so)
4. Hold the cut stalk carefully and use the flat edge of the pairing knife to scrape off the nettles. Don't scrape past the green inner bark—that's what we're after.
5. Use the tip of the knife to make a vertical cut through the cambium and peel the cambium off the stalk. You'll end up with a shiny white hardwood stick that can be used for making a handle for a cedar bark canoe bailer or a stirring stick.
6. Chop the soft bark into very small pieces and place those into the warming oil.
7. Allow the water to boil for 30 minutes (the longer the mixture heats, the more medicine is rendered.)
8. After heating, let the mixture cool a bit then pour it into the coffee filter over the coffee cup. Squeeze the remaining liquid and dregs left in the filter into the coffee cup. Wipe out the Pyrex mixing cup.
10. Place the mixing cup back into the boiling water and melt the beeswax.
11. Poke a hole in the vitamin E caplet and squeeze into the beeswax. Add 2 drops of tree tea oil. Mix the rendered medicine into the beeswax, combine ingredients and pour the mixture into the jar.
12. The salve should set up in about 15 minutes. Rub it on affected areas to soothe.

Bringing Solar Power to Remote Camps

By Jerry "Sparky" Patterson, Electrician, Tongass Facility Group

In 2004, the Tongass National Forest embarked on a program to convert all of our remote camps that rely on diesel fuel for electricity to solar. The intent is to move away from dependency on fossil fuels and the headaches that come with using, transporting, and storing fuel. Today's fuel prices, the geography of the Tongass, and the logistics of travel make diesel use difficult and solar power provides a viable solution.

The Tongass is by far the largest forest in the United States, and a very unique one. Southeast Alaska covers an area roughly the size of Florida, and includes 1,000 plus individual islands. The Tongass accounts for 17 million acres of this area. We have many remote camps scattered among the islands from one end of Southeast Alaska to the other. The camps provide housing for our field crews, eliminating the need to commute back and forth, which is expensive and dangerous even in the summer months. Most of the camps are powered with diesel generators which require constant fuel and expel pollutants into the environment. In addition, the fuel that must be stored at these sites can be spilled or stolen. With the cost of fuel, transporting it, and continuous maintenance on the generators, we are paying up to \$4.00 per kilowatt compared to about \$0.10 per kilowatt we pay in town.

Since Alaska is the land of the midnight sun and most of our field work is done in the summer months, solar is a good option. There are some challenges since the Tongass is mountainous and, being a rain forest, trees and cloud cover are an



A barge is fitted with solar panels to convert sunlight to electricity.

issue, however, solar panels do not need direct light to work, just daylight, and we have plenty of it in the summer.

We developed a standard design that can grow or shrink as our needs change at the sites. As a system increases in size the price goes up exponentially, so it is important to size the system correctly. A system that is too small or too big will be costly so it is important to get it right the first time.

Each system has the same basic components. They are:

- Solar panels which work the magic of converting the sunlight into electricity. The raw power then goes down the wires to the solar charge controller.
- The charge controller regulates the charging process of the battery bank by monitoring the batteries and determining the optimum charging parameters to use based

on the current solar conditions.

- Each of the 16 batteries weighs over 120 pounds and are about 18 inches tall. Each one has over 9 times the capacity of the one in your car and is 100% recyclable.
- The inverter is the brains of the whole system. It takes the power out of the battery bank and converts it to run lights and other electrical appliances. It can also monitor the batteries and run a generator to recharge the batteries if they get drawn too far down.
- At our larger camps, we cannot move completely away from generators just yet, however, they are now primarily a backup during off season operations and provide additional power during heavy use. With an alternative energy system, we can optimally load a much smaller generator to give us more power for less fuel when the generator is actually needed.

Last year we upgraded an older alternative energy system and reduced its fuel consumption by 75%. We installed another system on one of our floating camps but it was late in the season by the time it was operational so we do not have any usable data outside of the fact that the solar array alone has already collected about 600 kilowatts of power. This equated to about \$2,400 savings just from the panels, with zero impact on the environment. This year we already installed a system on another floating camp and are

planning to do another large camp and one smaller one this summer.

Our plan with this program is to first install a base system at each camp and to monitor the needs at the camp. In the future, we can add additional solar panels or incorporate wind and/or micro-hydro systems if the conditions and the technology permit. These can be added without reconfiguring the system.

We are also pursuing the idea of using fuel cells instead of diesel generators for backup power. Although, currently, the larger

fuel cell systems are still cost prohibitive, as the cost of technology comes down, our systems will be in line to incorporate the technology. We are currently looking at a small fuel cell for a feasibility study at one of our smaller camps. Since the small camps are just a scale version of our larger ones, the data produced would be applicable for all of the camps.

If you would like additional information, feel free to contact me at jjpatterson@fs.fed.us and I will be happy to assist you.

Use the Database, Win a Prize!

By Lillian Petershoare, Tribal Relations Program Manager



Left: Archaeologist Jane Smith displays the messenger bag and note pad she won in a drawing as a user of the Tribal Consultation Database. Photo by Gina Esposito. Right: Organized Village of Kasaan President Richard Peterson meets with Archaeologist Terry Fifield to discuss subsistence and traditional uses. Photo by Jason Anderson.

The Tribal consultation database is a useful tool for documenting consultations with Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations. The database is easy to use, and the records you create provide valuable history, which is particularly important when there are changes in staffing.

The ability to record meeting notes, to create a list of follow-up action items and to e-mail this information to participants allows everyone to focus on agreed upon action items. This transparency helps build trust with our Tribal partners. The e-

mail summaries affirm that the Forest Service is serious about consultation and follow through.

To promote the database during its first official year, the names of Alaska Region staff who have created records were entered into a drawing recently. Regional Forester Denny Bschor pulled two names: Jane Smith, Archaeologist on the Petersburg Ranger District and Terry Fifield, Archaeologist on the Craig Ranger District. Another drawing will be held in September. Help document our region's consultations with Tribes, and possibly win an attractive messenger bag. Good luck!

Ecotourism in Gabon

By John Neary, Wilderness Field Manager, Admiralty National Monument, Juneau Ranger District

In January 2009, I visited Gabon on the Central African coast as part of a team of four Forest Service employees. We were recruited by the International Programs office to advise the new Gabonese National Park Service (ANPN) on ecotourism development issues. Guided by a gentleman named Constant from the Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) we tried to contribute to the larger goals of this U.S. Agency for International Development initiative by “promoting sustainable natural resource management in the Congo Basin.”

I’ve been to Africa before and perhaps you’ve read previous dispatches from Nigeria or Rwanda. This trip was spent almost entirely in the capital city called Libreville.



Libreville cityscape from a boat

the bustle of a city interferes.

I find the beach across from the hotel to be a bit trashy. Plastic bags, tires and assorted junk is scattered around the grassy frontage and in each little creek that meanders through the sand. Some of these small creeks have an egret in residence, looking for an invertebrate or fish. A man in a tattered T-shirt and cutoff shorts scans the shoreward waves with cast net in hand, also looking for signs of food. School children in crisp uniforms of white and blue pour off minibuses to mill about, chatting and jostling as they prepare to cross the highway to their large school.



Constant on the trail

5:45 a.m. is a quiet time along the equator of Central Africa. The sun will be blazing in a few hours, but it’s now a mere blush of amber across the horizon. There is enough time for a walk along the beach before breakfast, before the heat and

met with every major government agency, NGO or commercial operator involved in eco-tourism to discuss their challenges and opportunities. Our meeting with the Gabon Ministry of the Environment on the second day, for example, focused

on tourism concessions that seek out international certifications as “green businesses.” Most international corporations who do business in Gabon, according to our contact, don’t follow the practices mandated by their own home governments and as a result, they circumvent environmental analyses. How can a lodge be “green” if it doesn’t follow Gabonese law, he wonders?

When the President of Gabon set aside thirteen new parks in 2002, the world celebrated a victory for biodiversity, but the disappearing receipts from cancelled logging concessions were expected to be replaced by tourism receipts. Seven years later, the number of ecotourists total less than 10,000 and the parks are largely undeveloped and unvisited. We reviewed a proposal at the CARPE office for a seven-year strategy of ecotourism development for the national parks. It is ambitious, but does the capacity exist here to implement these grand plans? How can they attract investors who will construct lodges and tourist facilities?

After five intense days of meetings in French we were all ready for a

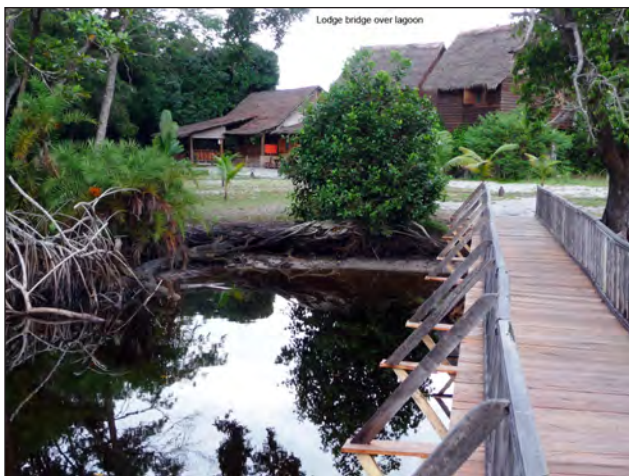
After five intense days of meetings in French we were all ready for a visit to Pongara National Park where our small lodge shared a stretch of beach sand and warm Atlantic water with few other visible structures and the first impression upon arrival by boat is of wild shoreline. Soon I was strolling the beach hoping to sight a turtle nest or, further south, hippos that surf the waves!



Surfing hippos at Loango National Park

One half mile down the beach I come upon a small clearing containing cabins of wood poles and thatch, yet everywhere else is tangled forest. One branch supports a group of familiar bee-eaters alternately winging into the wind before returning to rest. A sandpiper on the sand snatches a small ghost crab and shakes vigorously, squishing it before gulping. Further along a small fish frantically swims to escape a much larger one in pursuit, the chase evident in the crest of waves as the little one darted for the shallows. I thought of the hammerhead sharks Frank mentioned as we waded ashore for the first time this morning.

Our lodge is a lovely retreat where the dining room has no walls, no screens, and is bordered by calm



Lodge bridge over lagoon

lagoon. The ocean waves in the afternoon pounded the outer beach as a squall sent us scurrying for cover. We met the lodge owner to discuss tourism, but his French moved too fast and I was offended by the way he barked orders to his staff with a snap of fingers. His wide girth and booming voice sent me escaping down the beach after an hour to let the wind sweep away the stain of his cigarette smoke.

The next morning we walked after breakfast through secondary forest with trees 20" in diameter that are only 20 years old. The old logging road is now green and lush. Most tourists would probably believe they are walking through ancient rainforest. I imagine monkeys throwing down seeds from the canopy and colorful birds in the air. I imagine a chimp or gorilla on the ground ahead, but we see little fauna, probably because there is poaching and other disturbance at this end of the park. The Park Service has no regular presence here.

The beach is beautiful and clean. I want to run and play but it's so hot and we seem to be heading for the clearing

I noticed yesterday on a headland. It is an old lighthouse renovated into a funky restaurant and lodge with a hippy decorating scheme. There's a bizarre little memorial to "Survivor Gabon," the TV series filmed here in 2008 where "eighteen Americans from different walks of life are thrown into the wilderness of Gabon, one of

the most remote places in Africa. Wearing nothing but their street clothes, these castaways are led by a group of local warriors through untouched savannah that is home to a variety of animals including elephants, gorillas and buffalo." Everything in Gabon has so far been just slightly this side of surreal.

Back in Libreville we worked on the report, had more meetings and prepared a presentation. Gabon has many natural gifts, including vast, undeveloped tropical rainforest with abundant, charismatic wildlife such as gorilla, elephant, hippo, chimps and more. There is much to be done to make the parks self sustaining. A "circuit" needs to be developed with a successful prospectus awarded to a capable company (or companies). Investors need assurances that leases will be honored and terms favorable. Gabon desperately needs a success story of responsible tourism that secures its icon on the world travel map. Hopefully we can someday help them find the "green" tourism that benefits biodiversity, indigenous culture and sustainable economies.

The trip to Gabon was a good one, and I'm leaving with a bit of reluctance. As we return to the clear, cold skies over France, lights below spread as far as the eye can see. The dark continent is once again behind me.

Emerging a Better Person

Life Lessons from Survivors

By Denise Wolvin, Interpreter, Wrangell Ranger District

For the past five years, Wrangell Ranger District has worked with the Wrangell Museum and the Friends of the Wrangell Museum to present a winter lecture series entitled “Chautauqua.” The 2009 Chautauqua series at



Hiroshima survivor Toshiko Nichols

first seemed to be headed down the same path, different presenters from the region covering local topics. As it turned out, this year’s Chautauqua was anything but ordinary. Wrangell had an incredible opportunity to host two women who shared their personal accounts of World War II. Toshiko Nichols was raised in Hiroshima, Japan. She was at home the day the atomic bomb was dropped. Charlene Schiff is a Holocaust survivor from Poland.

Toshiko Nichols, Hiroshima Survivor

Toshiko Nichols lived with her family 8-10 miles out from the center of Hiroshima and worked downtown during World War II. As fate would have it, however, the day the atomic

I met Mrs. Nichols at the Wrangell Airport. She is a small, frail looking woman. She was astonished to see a group of people waiting to greet her. I waited my turn to be introduced. Finally, she turned to me with a large smile on her face, thanking me for being there. After asking how her time was in Ketchikan (she and Mrs. Schiff stopped in Ketchikan first to present in the schools and at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center), she asked me why people were interested in her story. I said that I didn’t want to see her story happen to any other person on earth. She agreed, but said the story was very painful to remember.

At Chautauqua, Mrs. Nichols seemed dwarfed by the massive table she sat behind. She was very nervous, not used to speaking in public or being in the spotlight. She said her heart felt like it was going to jump out of her chest. She gave a short account of the day of the bombing, and then took questions. Slowly, people lifted their hands and asked the questions on their minds. She answered the best she could while trying to hide the raw emotion that came from reliving that day. She stated with determination and strength, “This cannot happen again. We must love one another.”

A tear rolled down my cheek, because here sat a woman who lived through hell and came out of it with a message of peace and love.

Charlene Schiff, Holocaust Survivor

Charlene Schiff is a volunteer at the National Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. She

survived over two years alone in the woods outside her hometown after the ghetto that she lived in was destroyed. She was 11.

I also met Mrs. Schiff at the Wrangell airport. She came in a wheelchair, with her hair done up and a large lipstick smile. I had read about Mrs. Schiff’s life, and I waited nervously to be introduced to her, with tears in my eyes. I took a depth breath, but when it was my turn, she immediately reached out to hug me.

I had the privilege to sit by her at lunch and we talked about family. She was anxious to meet my son. She had a wonderful air about her, like of a grandmother who is never harsh or judgmental. I had to ask her a question that had really started with Mrs. Nichols earlier: “How can you love so much? How did you ever find the love to marry and bring a child into this world after all that has happened?” She smiled at me with tenderness and asked me not to cry. I am not an emotional person by nature and the tears rolled harder as she reached out to comfort me. She told me that it did not happen right away, but she forgave because hatred only destroys.

That night, I thanked everyone who helped with this project. It was a long list. I finished with these words: “It is amazing that two women with very different experiences in World War II came through it with the same message—love one another.” My voice cracked, but I did not shed a tear as I had promised Charlene Schiff I would not.

These two speakers had a very profound effect on me and many others in Wrangell. It was a life-

changing experience. Hearing their accounts first hand has put my life into perspective. Some people might wonder why the Forest Service would be involved in bringing survivors to speak to them about their accounts during such tragic time. The Forest Service works hard to embrace people's differences and include them within their organization. Sometimes it takes a person with a different perspective to bring forth a great idea.

A lot of individuals came together to make this happen. The Tongass Civil Rights Advisory Group, the Diversity Matching Grant, Alaska Geographic, Wrangell Museum, the Friends of the Wrangell Museum, and many more groups and individuals in Wrangell that offered whatever assistance they could to make these presenters feel welcomed and really a member of our extended Wrangell family. I thank them all once again for changing my life for the better.



District Ranger Mark Hummel with survivor Charlene Schiff

Beavers on Video

*By Pete Schneider, Fisheries Biologist,
Juneau Ranger District*

The Juneau Ranger District fisheries shop recently completed a short educational video about beavers and their life history. This video is currently being broadcast on KTOO's "360 North" program, which is available throughout the state. The collection of video was shot on location along Steep Creek at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. Production of the seven-minute video was originally intended for use by educators, but has generated a good deal of interest from the general public as well. Copies are available through the Juneau Ranger District Fish & Wildlife office.



A beaver feeds at Steep Creek



A beaver is busy peeling bark.



A beaver dam under repair

52 Ways to Love the Tongass National Forest

Faith L. Duncan, Interpretive & Conservation Education Program Manager, Tongass National Forest

The State of Alaska is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year with 50 events across the State. My list here that suggests 52 ways to love the Tongass is no slight to the State's events, but it got me thinking about how much I love the public land and its resources and mysteries; and how each week of the year could hold a special celebration of that emotion.

January

- Write letters or emails to friends along with photos of forest adventures.
- Go cross-country skiing near your home.
- Piece quilts while watching loons on the water at your retreat.
- Learn to snowshoe and rent a cabin in the back-country as a destination.
- Post some photos from the past year on an Internet site of which you are a member.

February

- Storms are brewing; write poetry about your favorite outdoor place on the Forest.
- Take a beach walk with your sweetheart along the coast and enjoy sunshine.
- After a windy day, explore snowy paths for lichens and other canopy windfall.
- Attend a public meeting about a place you care about and give your opinions.

March

- Attend a Forest-sponsored winter lecture series or presentation in your hometown.
- Volunteer for a project that you care about benefiting public lands and resources.
- Take your dog for a walk in the woods.
- Sit in the hot springs and dream of spring.

April

- Watch animals migrate along the Inside Passage via land and sea.
- Remove invasive plants or clean a beach on Earth Day.
- Attend a spring festival in your town and bring the family.
- Make a shop project out of local wood.

May

- Have a field trip and share a secret new place on the Forest with friends.
- Collect fern curls one morning to steam for dinner.
- Plan an overnight camping trip (low elevations) in one of nineteen Wilderness areas.
- Discover animal tracks in sandy and muddy areas and teach a child how to read them
- Take a boat trip out and look up the slopes from the sea.

June

- Check out your favorite salmonberry access trail and plan a gathering trip.
- Go fishing at a local pond, and observe beavers at work.
- Learn how to kayak with a friend on a Forest lake.
- Teach a child about banana slugs on a wet day.

July

- Collect salal berries and make jelly with a newly arrived friend.
- Hike up a local mountain to observe fireworks late in the evening.
- Safely explore a fragile place like a cave. Leave no trace of your visit.
- March in your hometown parade with Woodsy, Smokey, and Sammy Salmon.

August

- Take a boardwalk trail to the alpine, or drive there.
- The fireweed flowers are topping over your head! Collect flowers and make syrup.
- Camp at a cabin that you have rented for a long weekend.
- Visit your super-secret-blueberries-the-size-of-your-thumb spot and make waffles.
- Celebrate a birthday at a day use site or picnic area.

September

- Observe a brown or black bear in its natural habitat.
- Make huckleberry jam with your grandmothers.
- Take a trip to a salmon stream and watch the fish move up-stream to spawn.
- Help put the finishing touches on a trail that you care about.

October

- Have a bonfire on a beach. Leave the spot better than you found it.
- Gather leaves of many colors for pressing.
- Attend a festival celebrating blueberries or the temperate rain-forest on another island.
- Plan and prepare for a hunting trip on the Forest.
- Watch the last birds going south and say good-by.

November

- Invite your non-Alaska family to visit you and explore the woods.
- Write a story about your seasonal adventures or tell it around the campfire.
- Observe bald eagles gathering around the river banks.
- Gather fire wood, split, stack and stow for winter.

December

- Prepare a wreath with windfall and give a forest gift.
- Stay inside and write a check to your favorite not for profit that supports public lands.



Faith Duncan in Ketchikan's July 4 parade

Editor's Note: Congratulations are extended to Faith Duncan who was named the Alaska Region 2009 nominee for the "Gifford Pinchot Excellence in Interpretation and Conservation Education Award."

Jaenicke Awarded for Outstanding Service



Regional Office mail clerk Randy Jaenicke was honored at the Juneau Federal Employee Association's annual awards luncheon on May 6. Regional Forester Denny Bschor was joined by several of Randy's coworkers to look on as Randy received the "Outstanding Administrative Support Award" for his excellent work ethic, reliability and exceptional service to the regional office. Randy has often been described as "one of the most dedicated and conscientious employees in the Forest Service."

Congratulations, Randy, for a job well done!

Regional Office mail clerk Randy Jaenicke received the "Outstanding Administrative Support Award" at the annual Juneau Federal Employee Association's annual awards luncheon in May. Photo by Teresa Haugh.

Frog Jumping and Sammy Salmon: Just Another Day at School

By Chad Hood, Fisheries Technician, Juneau Ranger District

In our commitment to community education, Juneau Ranger District and Admiralty National Monument personnel recently completed our annual education week at the schools of Angoon. This year's topics were amphibians and introduction to spruce root basket weaving. Wilderness Ranger Barbara Lydon and I gave fish and wildlife presentations. We presented various topics about amphibians to the elementary school. Classes were capped off with frog origami that resulted

in a heated frog jumping contest. To the middle school and high school, we discussed wilderness ethics and work projects we have been doing around Angoon.

Archaeologists Myra Gilliam and Rachel Myron began teaching about spruce root basket weaving. This year, they introduced basket weaving and next year they will begin harvesting and preparing spruce roots for weaving. Of course, no trip to Angoon would be complete without a visit from Sammy Salmon.



Above: Wilderness Ranger Barbara Lydon talks about the difference between toads and frogs with Angoon students. Right: Sammy Salmon welcomes Angoon students to the Forest Service's annual education week at their schools. By Chad Hood.



Woosy and Smokey Join In Petersburg Rite of Spring

By Linda Slaght, Public Services Group Leader, Petersburg Ranger District

The Petersburg Early Childhood Family Fair is held every two years at Rae C. Stedman Elementary School and the Petersburg Children's Center. The event offers a fun and educational morning for young children and their families. Numerous businesses and organizations present indoor and outdoor activities for kids, fire trucks, and boats to climb on, and food and information for parents. This year, Smokey Bear and Woosy Owl put in an appearance and made many new young friends. The Petersburg Ranger District has been participating in the fair for many years. The event has become one of the most popular rites of spring in Petersburg.

Karisa Garner and Marcus Horn join Woosy and Smokey at the Early Childhood Family Fair in Petersburg.



Having a Good Map Can Save Your Life

By Ed Grossman, Recreation Program Manager, Juneau Ranger District

With a good map, you can keep track of where you are, mark your progress to your destination, and re-orient yourself when you happen off-course. Stating the obvious right? But have you ever thought of a map also serving as an emergency shelter?

A few years ago, local resident John Wilcock was conducting an on-foot, solo investigation of possible snowmachine routes up onto Blackerby Ridge in Juneau's Lemon Creek Valley. If he found a feasible route, he hoped to seek the required permits and permission to open the area to winter motorized use.

Getting onto Blackerby Ridge is not for the faint of heart, as it is steep-sided, brushy, and rugged. John admittedly got a late start that beautiful October day, but he thought he had plenty of time for a round trip. The day's trekking went fairly well, overall, but time slipped away and by afternoon our notorious fall weather switched rapidly from beautiful to foul. John found himself further from the road than he anticipated, while facing darkness. We've all been there; mixed up a bit, but not lost. His exertions made him a prime target of hypothermia, and the steep, broken country was too difficult and dangerous to navigate in the dark.

John realized he would have to stay put (and alive) for the night with what he had in his pockets and pack. His greatest asset? The large, waterproof version of the Juneau Area Trails Map. John hunkered down under the map and out of the rain for the night, then was able to walk out on his own the next day, shaken but fine. Searchers and family, of course, were relieved, and all of Juneau's hikers took notice. The

Juneau Area Trails Map is now considered a multipurpose tool, and something you should not leave home without.

Here is more great news. The Juneau Area Trails Map just got better. In a collaborative effort between the Regional Office's Geospatial group, and the Juneau Ranger District, the map has been revised with literally hun-

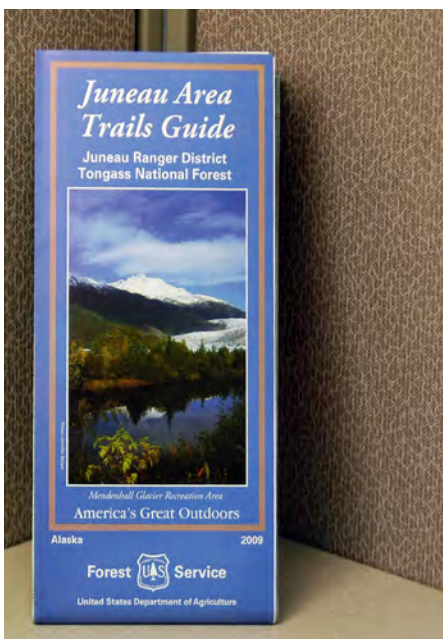


Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Trail of Time

dreds of changes and improvements. Special thanks go to Forest Service employees Karen Lee, Bob Francis, Marc Scholten, and Peter Cross. George Schaaf and Jim Geraghty, of Juneau's Trail Mix, who also offered valuable input. The revised edition has just been received from the printer, and, yes it is printed on waterproof paper!

The map is now an award winner as well. It was presented at the Bureau of Land Management/Forest Service Geospatial '09 Conference in Utah this spring, and received first place in the Cartographic Design, Content, Graphics, and Presentation category. It was further honored as the number one People's Choice for Cartography by popular vote of conference attendees.

Copies are for sale for \$10 each at the Juneau Ranger District, the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, and through the Geospatial Unit in the Regional Office. If you intend to hike Juneau's varied trail systems, grab a copy. It may help save your life!



Discovery of Alaska's Oldest Human Remains Leads to Grey Towers

reprinted by permission: Grey Towers Legacy Newsletter, Spring 2009

What does the discovery of human remains and artifacts, on Alaska's Prince of Wales Island have to do with Grey Towers, the ancestral Pinchot family home on the other side of the country?

Terry Fifield, an archaeologist with Alaska's Tongass National Forest, recently spent three months at Grey Towers drawing inspiration from the setting to write the history of an archaeological and tribal relations success story, dubbed the "On Your Knees Cave" project and held up as a model for doing archaeology in the 21st Century.

In July 1996, the oldest known human remains in Alaska or Canada (dating to more than 10,000 years ago) were found. The discovery set in motion a chain of events that has led to significant scientific discoveries, important educational opportunities, and remarkable relationships among the U.S. Forest Service, Alaska Natives, and researchers. For

12 years, Fifield served as the liaison between the partners, providing a free flow of information and seeking benefits for all interested partners.

In September 2008, the Klawock and Craig Tribal Governments, with the help of Sealaska Heritage Institute and the Tongass National Forest, honored the person whose remains were discovered (dubbed *Shuká Kaa*, "Man Ahead of Us" by Tlingit elders), the knowledge gained by his study, and the relationships formed and strengthened during these years. The *Shuká Kaa* Honor Ceremony was attended by Tribal, state, and federal dignitaries from Alaska to Washington, D.C.

U. S. Forest Service leaders in Heritage and Tribal Relations wanted to capture the On Your Knees Cave project model to help other professionals who might be navigating similar sensitive situations. What Fifield needed was a place to reflect upon the activities of the past 12 years and write it up in a setting that



Terry Fifield at the Craig Boat Harbor.

was removed from the distractions of his normal duties.

Grey Towers offers the perfect contemplative retreat for a project of this magnitude; and it fits well with the mission of working with a broad spectrum of the American public and making the best uses of nonrenewable public resources.

Spending time at Grey Towers and learning about the origins of the conservation philosophy in America provided Fifield with that inspirational and contemplative setting and more: "The Pinchot estate is not just an architectural marvel. It is a center of intellectual growth and change. Listening to the Grey Towers staff, patrons, and visitors, I gained a sense of what conservation meant, not only to Gifford Pinchot and Teddy Roosevelt, but also in the eyes of today's agency leaders and the public. I can see my work here as part of something bigger that may add to the body of experience that guides future resource managers."

cont'd next page



Tongass Archaeologist Terry Fifield spends a day in the field with Craig students.

When I left for Grey Towers many of my friends suggested that things would change for me having completed the On Your Knees Cave work, or at least my part of it. Things have changed. With a little time on my hands I found myself exploring other possibilities. After only a couple months back on Prince of Wales Island I accepted the White Mountain Forest Archaeologist position in New Hampshire. I'll be at work in Laconia July 20.

My 17 years on the Tongass have been immensely fulfilling. I have had the opportunity to share my excitement with many

of you all over the Alaska Region and I have felt support from all levels. From the Thorne River Basket in 1994, to On Your Knees Cave (1996–2008), to Coffman Cove (1997–future), PIT Projects, Heritage Expedition, partnerships with tribes, communities, and schools; it has all been a lot of fun! I've learned a lot! And I owe a lot of that to all of you.

Thanks! “

Terry Fifield, June 2009

Deputy Forest Supervisor Rebecca Nourse said, “Terry has been a valuable employee who made huge advances in the relationships between the Tongass National Forest and Alaska Native Tribes. We will really miss his passion and leadership.”

Terry's friends and colleagues in the Alaska Region would agree, and wish him well as he moves to New Hampshire and the White Mountain National Forest.

Change is Natural, but Is it Healthy?

By Toni Stafford, Business Operations Transformation Team

The Forest Service is changing and as our leaders remind us, “...transformation is a **constant, challenging, changing** and **continuous effort**.” Our experience of change can be uncomfortable because of the stress of new processes which don't work quite right, or the uncertainty about the future of our positions.

Our discomfort with change in our agency is normal. During periods of organizational change, stress increases and productivity decreases. Stress impacts our heart rhythm patterns, our nervous system, and our hormonal system. Elevated levels of stress have been shown to:

- Impair immune function
- Increase risk of heart disease
- Increase risk of heart attack
- Increase insomnia
- Increase bone loss and promote osteoporosis
- Reduce muscle mass
- Inhibit skin growth and regeneration
- Increase fat accumulation (especially around the waist and hips)
- Impair memory and learning

Yet change itself is natural: tadpoles become frogs, caterpillars transform into butterflies. Rivers change course. Forests mature and sometimes burn. The four seasons cycle on and on into infinity.

You might ask, then, if change is natural, and if being uncomfortable with change is normal, does that mean we're all destined to face health challenges? Fortunately, the answer is

NO. Research has shown that feeling positive emotions such as care or appreciation can reverse the negative impacts of chronic stress.

Like when your wise uncle reminds you to look on the bright side, choosing to find a silver lining might just save your life. To become change savvy, visit the [Change Through Exchange website](http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/change/index.php) at:

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/change/index.php>

Editor's Note: Toni Stafford and her colleague, Faye Fentimen, are part of the Forest Service Enterprise Team called Organizational Development Experts. Toni and Faye will be conducting a two-year monitoring process of the Regional Office transformation.

Toni and Faye made their first visit to Juneau in May. They began with an all-hands meeting. During the rest of the week, they shadowed directors, conducted focus groups, visited the Juneau Ranger District, and visited one-on-one with regional office employees who wanted to talk about transformation. They also met with the RO Transformation Monitoring Team that includes Paul Brewster, Maria Lisowski, Gene Miller and Deb Strickland.

An initial report from Toni and Faye will be shared with employees in early summer.

Chugach Boaters Survive Safety Training

By Ken Hodges, Fisheries Biologist; Photos by Sean Meade, Fisheries Technician, Cordova Ranger District



Top left: Deyna Kuntzsch tries out the first layer of the survival shelter she will share with three other people. That night, Deyna learned that she should put her glasses some place where they won't fall down into the spruce boughs, which later necessitated the demolition of the structure.

Bottom left: The course participants check out a completed survival structure where two to four people will spend the night. The shelters are intentionally built to be small and crowded so that the body heat does not have to warm a large volume of air. Deyna Kuntzsch and Ruth D'Amico are on the far right of the picture.

Top right: Students get to rescue their instructor from the cold Seward Harbor. (The students were luckier—they got to practice getting into survival suits and life rafts in the heated water of a swimming pool.)



Ruth D'Amico from the Seward Ranger District, and Deyna Kuntzsch and Sean Meade from the Cordova Ranger District practiced real-life survival and marine safety techniques in the chilly April weather during their Marine Safety Instructor course. The highlight of the course was constructing a survival shelter where they spent the night, with the outside temperature dropping to 17 degrees. They also practiced controlling on-board fires and flooding, abandoning ship, donning survival suits, entering life rafts, and other emergency procedures.

The course is a “train the trainer” class conducted by the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association. The participants learn to teach others about marine boating safety and survival skills. Ruth, Deyna, and Sean will share their knowledge with others during a three-day small boat operator training session this spring.

The PLAIN Takes a Train

By Sue Jennings, Writer/Editor, Tongass National Forest



The PLAIN team lines up in front of the Chugach Explorer, the self-propelled rail car that takes visitors into the Chugach backcountry.

On May 21, 2009, the Alaska Region PLAIN (Planning, Litigation, Appeals, Implementation and NEPA) group took a trip on the Chugach Explorer to the Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop. The Chugach Explorer is the newest addition to the Whistle Stop Project, which is a partnership between the Chugach National Forest, Glacier Ranger District, and the Alaska Railroad. The self-propelled rail car currently takes forest visitors to the Spencer Whistle Stop, and further south to Grandview, site of the next planned whistle stop. Plans are to expand the project to include more stops, spanning from Luebner Lake in the north to Trail Creek in the south.

The Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop is the first completed stop on the line. This stop is the most developed of the planned stops with group and dispersed camping, day use activities, and, in the next few years, a cabin. During the summer months, a Forest Service interpreter leads trips to a viewing platform along an accessible trail, where hikers are greeted by views of Spencer Lake and Spencer Glacier. This allows visitors to travel from Anchorage, Whittier, or Portage into the Chugach National Forest, spend the day or several days hiking and exploring, and then catch the train back.

Although the PLAIN group enjoyed the train ride and hike to Spencer Lake, the point of the trip was to learn the secrets to doing a quick, effective environmental impact statement, less than one year for the Whistle Stop EIS, and some hints on working with partners. According to Paul Clark and Josh Milligan, the key to completing NEPA quickly is to work out a plan with your partners before NEPA starts, have a project manager dedicated to the project, engage key stakeholders early, and have local resource specialists on the team. The special-



Glacier District Ranger Kate Walker and Chugach employee Paul Clark join the PLAIN train ride. All photos by Steve Kessler.

ists used their local knowledge to do the needed analysis quickly and accurately. The Whistle Stop plan also minimized the environmental footprint by limiting the scale of development.

Judging by the reaction from the PLAIN group to the new train, Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop, and presentation by Paul and Josh, the analysis was well worth the effort.



Alaska's Regional Foresters: Part IV

B. Frank Heintzleman, 1919-1937

By Marie Kanan, Procurement Technician, Regional Office



Benjamin Franklin "Frank" Heintzleman was born December 3, 1888, in Fayetteville, Penn. He studied at Pennsylvania State Forest Academy and Yale University. Heintzleman served in the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest for many years before coming to Alaska in 1918 to be a deputy forest supervisor. During the period 1934-1936, he was assigned to cooperative forestry work with the timber industry in Washington, D.C. For one year, he was Deputy Administrator in Charge of Forest Conservation, Lumber Division, National Industrial Recovery Administration.

Heintzleman was appointed Regional Forester of the Alaska Region of the Forest Service, with headquarters in Juneau, in 1937. There was

a revival of interest in totems at that time, and Heintzleman used WPA (Works Project Administration) and CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) funds to accomplish major work preserving and restoring totem poles. The CCC totem pole project, supervised by the Forest Service, was a noteworthy success, and several totem parks were set up on the Tongass National Forest.

In 1937, new leadership in the Forest Service combined with a revival of interest in totems by the Alaska Native Brotherhood and an infusion of new cash into park and recreation projects to spark new interest in cultural preservation. New Alaska Forest

Service Regional Forester B. Frank Heintzleman quickly became enthusiastic about totem poles, and in both 1937 and 1938 he sent field examiners out to evaluate the condition of totem poles and community houses in various Southeastern villages.

Although his efforts were badly complicated by the question of Native claims and possessory rights, Heintzleman negotiated the establishment of the two large pulp mills at Ketchikan and Sitka during his term. Much attention was given the question of side effects from the pulp mill operations. Heintzleman worked closely with research agencies and the Alaska Water Pollution Board to get satisfactory conditions of water purity. The problem was not so great in Alaskan waters—with its twelve to

twenty-four foot tides—as it was in lakes or estuaries of the states. He actively promoted timber sales and established pulp cutting areas.

Heintzleman was very interested in recreational opportunities, especially fishing. He was energetic, loved public speaking and was devoted to the community. He was a lifelong bachelor who loved social activities.

He served as Commissioner for the Department of Agriculture in the territory, as representative of the Federal Power Commission, and as chairman of the Alaska Planning Council.

During World War II, he directed the Alaska spruce log program, cooperatively with the War Production Board.

In 1953, Frank Heintzleman resigned as regional forester to become the eighth governor of the Territory of Alaska. Throughout his four-year term, he remained a staunch friend of the Forest Service and aided the officers in their work.

In recognition of his contributions to the advancement of forestry, he was elected a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters in 1951; and was awarded the Sir William Schlich Memorial Medal for distinguished service to forestry in 1958; he had been a member of the Society for 50 years. Heintzleman died in Juneau June 24, 1965.

Extracted from: A History of the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska, Lawrence Rakestraw, 2002 reprint by U.S. Forest Service Alaska Region



Attention, Retirees & Employees

The 2009 Forest Service Reunion is planned for Sept. 7-11, 2009 in Missoula, Mont. at the Hilton Garden Inn & Conference Center. The reunion includes tours, music, food, fellowship, a silent auction, exhibitor booths, and much more. Co-sponsors include the National Association of Forest Service Retirees, the National Association of Smoke Jumpers, and the National Museum of Forest Service History. For details and registration information, visit the website at: <http://2009forestservicereunion.net/default.aspx>.

The Alaska Region will have a booth at the reunion to meet employees and retirees who have lived and worked in the Alaska Region. We will have an ongoing slideshow of some of your favorite places. Also, we want to talk with you about your experiences, and maybe even capture your story on audio or video. Please look us up in Missoula!

It All Came Together

By Wini Kessler, Director of Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecology, Watershed, and Subsistence Management.

Timing, location, and the element of surprise all came together beautifully on April 29 for the presentation of the 2008 WFEWS Director's Award to Deyna Kuntzsch, Staff Officer for Fisheries, Watershed, & Subsistence Management on the Cordova Ranger District. The spring meeting of the Chugach forest leadership team had been on my calendar for some time, with Cordova as the selected location. The stage was set to recognize Deyna not only with her peers and co-workers present, but as well in front of the Forest Leadership Team. And judging from Deyna's reaction, I'm convinced we were successful in catching her unawares.

The WFEWS Director's Award was initiated in 1984 to recognize employees in wildlife, fisheries, ecology, watershed, or subsistence management who are making outstanding contributions to their professional fields, to communities, and to the Alaska Region's mission. That makes this the 25th year of recognizing excellence in the WFEWS programs in Alaska! In nominating Deyna, her peers described an exceptional record of leading the Cordova District's programs in fisheries, watershed, and subsistence

management. As one example of many they described her role in championing wetlands conservation and management. She led the development of a Strategic Framework for Key Coastal Wetlands in the Alaska Region, and was instrumental in moving the approved strategy forward in initiatives for the Copper River Delta, Stikine River Delta, and Yakutat Forelands.

Deyna's outreach activities have been exceptional. Her service as the Forest Service representative on the executive board of the Pacific Coast Joint Venture Alaska Committee is making a positive difference in the conservation of Alaska's coastal wetlands and watersheds. Her collaboration with PNW scientists and universities has helped build a wealth of scientific information about the ecology of the Copper River Delta. In the words of her collaborators, "Because of Deyna's efforts a strong, productive management-research partnership has developed...[her] personality and professionalism contribute to the success of this partnership."

Deyna's commitment to safety is highly regarded among her peers. Her leadership in building a training



Director Wini Kessler presents the 2008 Director's Award to Deyna Kuntz, Cordova Ranger District. Photo by Steve Kessler.

curriculum for boating safety, her service as the National Dive Safety Officer for the Forest Service, and her accomplishments in field safety were all commended by appreciative co-workers.

Deyna is a credit to the Forest Service and the profession. It was a real pleasure to participate in the celebration of her accomplishments and her sustained service to the Forest Service and communities in Alaska

Prince of Wales Island Wins Safety Trophy

By William Moulton, Tongass National Forest Safety Officer

Craig and Thorne Bay ranger districts teamed up to win the annual Tongass National Forest Safety Award. They beat out four other units to receive a new hand-carved wooden trophy in honor of their proactive stance on safety. Sitka District Ranger Carol Goularte handed out the award on behalf of the Tongass Safety Committee at the February 11 Tongass Leadership Team meeting in Wrangell. Greg Killinger snatched up the award on behalf of their districts. (This should look good on the safety element of their performance reviews!)

The Craig and Thorne Bay districts teamed up to form a joint safety committee in early 2006. This improved the consistency and effectiveness of their island-wide safety program. The new strategy coordinated their safety policies, implementation, captured strengths from both units and better addressed an increasingly zoned program and employee workforce. Along with both rangers, the Prince of Wales (POW) Island Safety Committee has representation from all staff groups and both districts. They meet monthly.

Both districts hold monthly safety/family meetings with a joint meeting for all POW employees every 4 months. At the joint meetings their proactive safety efforts have included creative programs such as competing in “Safety Jeopardy” and the “Safety Playoffs.” For the latter they divided into teams and challenged a series of safety related stations.

The new safety award program was the brain-child of the Tongass Safety Committee. Member Eric Larson, with his own time, tools and artistic skill created the wonderful new traveling trophy to be presented annually. Employees can seek nomination forms as well as guidelines of what is expected, from their local safety officer.



Sitka District Ranger Carol Goularte presents safety award to Craig District Ranger Greg Killinger

The Green Mile

By Ray Massey, Regional Office Public Affairs



I learned through our Adopt-A-Highway clean up day this May: it's possible for someone to lose a whole case of diapers and not pick it up; that there were five, 16-gallon bags of aluminum cans and Type 1 plastic bottles discarded between Sunshine Point and Fred Meyers over the winter; there really must be a recession—we only found one, sad little dollar bill; that people picking up trash are equally split on whether they like chocolate or lemon cookies; that 17 individuals can make it to a meeting on time; and finally, I learned that the regional office and the Juneau Ranger District can work closely together and accomplish a beautiful piece of work.

Thanks to the following for making the Green Mile match its name this spring: Gene Miller, Melinda Hernandez, Sharon Cordell, Pete Griffin, Richard Stahl, Warner Vanderheuel, Roger Birk, Seth Stfansky, Brian Whetsler, Dillon Barousse, Matthew Thompson, Matt Adams, Sarah Roop, Bill Muir, Dale McFarlin, and Adam Kackstetter.

2009 Length of Service Awards

40 YEARS

RO

Dennis E. Bschor
Eugene E. Miller
Frances M. Preston

35 YEARS

RO

Sharon Cordell
Walter E. Ullmayer
Chugach SO
Steven V. Zemke
Tongass SO
Forrest W. Cole
David M. Johnson
Robert Moniz
Juneau RD
Peter M. Griffin, Jr.

30 YEARS

RO

Kenneth B. Dinsmore
Steven J. Kessler
Susan H. Marvin
Domenick J. Monaco

S&PF

Kenneth P. Zogas
Chugach SO
Peggy L. Sears
Cordova RD
Robert W. Behrends
Seward RD
David A. Lockwood
Seward RD
Patrick J. O'Leary
Tongass SO
James D. Brainard
Constance Copelan
Lawrence Dunham
Daniel D. McMahon
William Moulton
Craig RD
Patrick J. Tierney
Sitka RD
Carol A. Goularte
Annemarie LaPalme
Petersburg RD
Elbert A. Hardin
James A. Steward
Thorne Bay RD
Michael S. Anderson
Barnet M. Freedman

25 YEARS

RO

John Inman
Cecilia Martin
S&PF
Paul E. Hennon
Chugach SO
Martin P. Bray
Andrew J. Schmidt
Seward RD
Irene B. Lindquist
Tongass SO
Michelle R. Brainard
Katrina D. Hill
Patricia Huddlestun
Allison Jackson
John P. McDonell
Carol S. Warmuth
Ketchikan/Misty RD
Arthur Williams, Jr.
Petersburg RD
Patricia Nannauck
Sitka RD
Barth T. Hamberg
Lawrence Jensen
Thorne Bay RD
Sally Y. Burch

15 YEARS

RO

Marie Messing
Valorie L. Nelson
Dominico M. Paguio
Michael Wilcox
S&PF
Dustin Wittwer
Cordova RD
Erin E. Cooper
Kim E. Kiml
Seward RD
Kevn S. Laves
Nicole Longfellow
Tongass SO
Barbara Massenburg
Admiralty Island NM
Michael L. Dilger
Rachel Myron
Craig RD
Dorothy M. Nix
Ketchikan/Misty RD
Leslie Swada
Thorne Bay RD
Robert Berney

20 YEARS

RO

Samuel H. Carlson
Patricia Clabaugh
Winifred B. Kessler
Patrick Reed
S&PF
Loreen M. Trummer
Cordova RD
James K. Hodges
Deyna A. Kuntzsch
Glacier RD
Teresa M. Benson
Brian L. McMillen
Teresa B. Paquet
Merlyn D. Schelske
Seward RD
Mary Ann Benoit
Todd M. Camm
Michael Fitzpatrick

Tongass SO

Yvonne Blankenship
William L. Nielson
Michele M. Parker
John K. Pickens
Janine M. Stangl
Hoonah RD
Eugene Cisneros
Ketchikan/Misty RD
James A. Llanos
Petersburg RD
Thomas D. Parker'
Sitka RD
Mary E. Emerick
Virginia Lutz
Thorne Bay RD
Lynette Carlson
Rich M. Jacobson
Wrangell RD
Dee A. Galla

10 YEARS

RO

David R. Chandler
Cordova RD
Jason G. Fode
Timothy L. Joyce
Glacier RD
Kevin Klinefelter
Carl J. Skustad
Tongass SO
Joni M. Johnson
Susan Jones
Jerry Patterson
Christal R. Rose
Scott Snelson
Julie Speegle
Admiralty NM
Laurie A. Lamm
Timothy F. Lydon

Craig RD

Jeff A. Reeves
Juneau RD
Peter J. Schneider
Ketchikan/Misty RD
Christian Barajas
Ron Tschaker
Petersburg RD
Tiffany Benna
Carey G. Case
Sitka RD
Patricia Droz
Thorne Bay RD
Delilah A. Brigham
Chad A. Leshuk
Yakutat RD
Susan Oehlers

5 YEARS

S&PF

Melinda S. Lamb
Cordova RD
Andrew A. Morse
Glacier RD
Paul D. Clark
Matthew J. Murphy
Seward RD
Michael W. Johnson
Amanda M. Mico
Daniel H. Osborn
Tongass
Vivian Hjort

Kent Nicholson

Erin Uloth
Juneau RD
Thomas R. Dayton
Ketchikan/Misty RD
Allan Braun
Buchanan Willoughby
Sitka RD
Maura Santora
Thorne Bay RD
Casey Lavoie
Katie E. Rooks
Jennifer Elliott

Forest Service History Quiz



Prize winner Jim Steward.

Congratulations to Jim Steward, Landscape Architect at the Petersburg Ranger District, for winning a handsome Forest Service belt buckle for correctly answering the last question in the Forest Service History Quiz. Jim's name was picked from a drawing of several winning employees and retirees, including: Dawn Germain, John Kato, Kim Kiml, Melinda Kuharich, Andy Schmidt, Mike Trainer, and William Ulmer. Thanks to everyone who participated.

The history quiz came about from a suggestion by our friends at the National Museum of Forest Service History. We hope this exercise helps you learn a little about the history and heritage that you enjoy as an employee, retiree, or friend of the Alaska Region. And if you participate in the next contest, you may be our next prize winner! For more on the museum, visit: <http://www.nmfs-history.net/index.html>.

LAST QUESTION: What situation and location in Alaska prompted the firing of the first Forest Service Chief, Gifford Pinchot? **ANSWER:** The nuances of this issue are still being debated by historians. Inquiring minds should do their own research. Here is the very short version. Char Miller, in his book, *Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism* (Island Press 2001), said, "They called it a 'coal party.'" In May 1911, citizens of Cordova, Alaska, stormed the wharves on the Copper River and dumped imported Candian anthracite into Controller Bay. They burned an effigy of Gifford Pinchot to protest his perceived support of President Roosevelt's 1908 order to withdraw coal deposits on public lands in Alaska from mining. The situation in Alaska underscored a growing rift between Pinchot, the new president, William Taft, and Taft's Secretary of the Interior, Richard Ballinger. When Pinchot became openly critical of President Taft's policies, including views on coal claims and conservation, Pinchot was fired.

Regional office employee John Kato (who claims he was working for the General Land Office in Juneau at the time) shared a copy of Taft's letter to Pinchot that simply told Pinchot not to bother coming to the office the next day. "They just don't fire them that way anymore!" said John.

Send in your answers by July 31

Four-part QUESTION for the next quiz:

1. What was the only year that National Leadership Team meeting was held in Alaska?
2. In what town was the meeting held?
3. Who was the Regional Forester that year?
4. Who was the Chief that year?

For correctly answering these questions, your name will be placed in a drawing to win a set of four Forest Service dinner plates provided by the Western Heritage Co. in honor of the National Museum of Forest Service History. These plates are the same design as the famous, historical dishware used for years in lookout towers and ranger stations, and would look great at your summer cookout.

E-mail your answers to Teresa Haugh by **July 31** at thaugh@fs.fed.us, or through regular mail at U.S. Forest Service, Public Affairs Office, P. O. Box 21628, Juneau, AK 99802.

