

SourDough Notes



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IN THIS ISSUE:

Focus on Safety
Annual Employee Recognition
Groundbreaking Trail Work
International Connections: Africa and Colombia
Scientists (of all ages) in the Field

ON THE COVER:

New concrete steps at the Trail of Time on the Juneau Ranger District. Photo by Peter Cross. Story begins on page 10.

SourDough Notes

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INSIDE:

Chugach Children's Forest2	Betty Charnon Receives Award19
Glacier Discovery Trail3	Yakutat's Tern in the Spotlight20
Shift in Agency Safety Culture4	Golden Eagles in Wrangell21
Join Us on the Safety Journey5	Growing Healthy Children22
Wrangell RD Wins Safety Award6	Over Land and on the Sea23
Winner of the Safety Quiz7	Int'l Year of Forests Posters24
Trails on Prince of Wales8	WFEWS Director's Award25
You Make the Difference9	Quiz: From the Archives26
A Leap of Faith10	Governor Recognizes Volunteers27
Conservation Connections11	2010 Cash Awards28
Travelogue: Africa12	2010 Quality Increases29
Gateway to Ruwenzori NP13	2010 Length of Service Awards30
Exciting Discovery in the Alpine14	2010 Time Off Awards30
Scheffler Creek Helpers15	2010 Group Time Off Awards31
Introducing the IM Staff16	2010 Group Cash Awards31
AQM Workshop18	Travel Saving Incentives31
2010 Performance Awards18	2010 Regional Forester Awards32

Chugach Children's Forest Youth Climate Change Expeditions Program Recognized

The Chugach Children's Forest Climate Change Expedition program received an Honorable Mention in "Education Program/Project" category of the 2011 Media and Partnership Awards sponsored by the Association of Partners for Public Lands (APPL).

Congratulations are extended to:

- Ann Mayo-Kiely, Program Director, Alaska Geographic
- Amanda Smith, Program Manager, Alaska Geographic
- Sara Boario, Public Affairs Officer, Chugach NF
- Aaron Poe, Partnerships & Community Engagement, Chugach NF

The annual climate change expeditions travel to some of Alaska's wild-est places, engage youth in stewardship projects, and provide them with an understanding of what public lands mean to adjacent communities. Stories and discoveries from expeditions are shared through youth-produced media, public presentations, interactive websites, and integration into school programs. More information is available at: <http://www.alaskageographic.org/static/1135/childrens-forest-2010-youth-programs>.

Students traveled to Prince William Sound to document the impacts of climate change on the marine and coastal ecosystems in locations throughout Prince William Sound. Youth from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe spent a week on the Kenai Peninsula learning what climate change can reveal about the past. Youth from Anchorage traveled by train to Portage Valley, Whittier, Spencer Glacier, and Seward to explore and document the changing landscape of the Chugach National Forest. Students also studied wetlands ecology on the Copper River Delta, focusing on plants, soils, hydrology, birds, and wildlife associated with one of North America's largest wetlands.

Blazing Ahead on the Glacier Discovery Trail

By Tony Fiorino, Trails Supervisor, Glacier Ranger District

The thrilling boom of a glacier calving into a lake never fails to capture the attention of visitors to Spencer Glacier. But some would probably be surprised to find that what they took for the sound of retreat was instead an indication of progress. Explosives played an important role last summer in the Glacier District as construction of the Glacier Discovery Trail (GDT) continued.

Spencer Glacier, about 10 miles south of Portage Valley and accessible only by train, was the starting point for construction of the GDT in 2007. The GDT will eventually extend for 18 miles through a remote section of the Kenai Mountains, and will only be accessible by the Alaska Railroad. This new scenic trail will benefit outdoor enthusiasts by increasing public access to the Kenai Peninsula, increasing recreation opportunities, and providing additional recreational infrastructure.

In summer 2010 (in spite of rain, mud, bugs, mud, and shallow bedrock), the trail crew managed to dig and blast their way to their goal. The accomplishment was the extension of the GDT by 8,200 linear feet, 500 of which had to be blasted out of the bedrock. Using a mini trail excavator and hand crews, the trail crew has now constructed five of the planned 18 miles that will make up the GDT. Construction began at Spencer Lake, climbing northward, and now reaches 1,800 vertical feet above the valley below for outstanding panoramic views of the Spencer Glacier, Spencer Lake, and the surrounding Kenai Mountains. Hikers will want to keep their cameras handy as each turn in the trail reveals an increasingly commanding view of the stunning landscape. Opportunities abound for



Glacier trail crew members Ari Stiassny, Shane Patrick, Kent May, and Cody Knoop drill rock along the Glacier Discovery Trail. Photo by Tony Fiorino.

wildlife viewing, as moose, black bear, and mountain goats frequent the area. This section of trail is now open, and aside from the views, it also offers quick and easy access to rolling alpine terrain and provides a good approach for mountain climbing. Additional work this summer will include the construction of a bridge at the top of this section of trail that will provide access to a public cabin which is coming soon.

For summer 2011, the district trail crew will continue extending the GDT southward where it will climb out of the Spencer basin and traverse below the feet of a series of glaciers while offering views of the Placer River below. This Class 3 trail will offer extended backpacking opportunities and will also be open to mountain biking. Once complete, this section of the GDT will become the third day hike available within the Spencer Glacier area. A necessary key to the extension of the trail will be the

construction of a 300-ft bridge over the Placer River near the Spencer Whistle Stop, which will be one of the longest trail bridges in the forest. Another exciting new project is the construction of our second Whistle Stop at Grand View, 10 miles south of Spencer at the head of the Placer River Valley. It will have developed camp sites, a vault toilet, and a 1,100-foot interpretive trail.

The Glacier District, in partnership with the Alaska Railroad, is developing Whistle Stops along stretches of the railroad that parallel the GDT. These Whistle Stops provide essential access points for riders of the railroad to both the GDT and to developed recreation sites. Private concessionaires at Spencer Glacier currently offer river rafting, lake tours, and glacier hikes. The associated recreational/interpretive infrastructure is a good example of what is to come for the rest of the Whistle Stop-Glacier Discovery Trail Project.

Catalyzing a Shift in the Agency's Safety Culture

By Beth Pendleton, Regional Forester



RF Beth Pendleton and DRF Ruth Monahan discuss plans for safety training in the Alaska Region. Photo by Ray Massey.

Most of us have had one or more experiences, be it in the field, at home, while recreating with family or friends, or perhaps in route to work, where we had a near miss or accident that in hindsight could have been prevented.

For me, one such occasion happened 18 years ago as I walked to the Metro station one spring morning to catch my train into the Washington Office. I left my suburban Maryland home just outside the Beltway, with tennis shoes on and shoulder bag full of “my life” ... work shoes, wallet, keys, lunch, paperwork, etc., ... in hand. I was full steam ahead when about three blocks from the Metro I heard someone running up behind me. Not thinking that this was all

that unusual as joggers frequented my commuting route, I stepped to the side to allow the runner to pass by, when he grabbed my shoulder bag and violently hurled me into a bus stop post. Suffice it to say I was left bagless, badly bruised, and frightened as the assailant turned and ran back to a car with his get-away accomplice at the wheel.

Why am I telling you this story? Well, it is one of many that I have either directly experienced or become aware of, that could have had a different outcome if I had had greater situational awareness—being more present, more in the moment, and aware of my surroundings—rather than being on autopilot. It is also a real life experience from which I

have learned a tremendous amount and realized that with some forethought and being aware of my surroundings, could have had a very different outcome.

This past year as I and my peers on the National Leadership Council have taken a deep dive into discovering the Forest Service's safety culture, as well as the safety cultures in other highly successful agencies and organizations, I have come to realize within myself a number of things. First, that safety is a personal, core value. Second, to be safe requires situational awareness, the ability to raise safety concerns skillfully in a safe learning environment, and the ability to assess risk operationally as well as in real time. I have also

gained a greater appreciation of sharing stories and learning from near misses to encourage better outcomes in the future. And, I have gained a greater awareness that to improve the Forest Service's safety culture and become a "zero fatality" agency is going to require that we all work

and travel this safety learning journey together to truly catalyze a shift in our agency safety culture.

Over the next several months, you will be hearing more from Chief Tom Tidwell and Associate Chief Mary Wagner as well as the Region's leadership at all levels

as we cascade the Employee Safety Engagement Sessions throughout the agency. You will also hear about several strategic investments that we will implement nationally to strengthen and demonstrate our commitment to catalyze a shift in the Agency's safety culture.

Join Us on the Safety Journey

By Ruth Monahan, Deputy Regional Forester

In the next six to 12 months, every employee in the Alaska Region will participate in a full-day Employee Safety Engagement Session on your home, or in some cases, nearby unit. The core purpose of this day is to: catalyze a shift in safety, change the way we talk about safety, get everyone to take small actions to improve safety outcomes, and give you tools to do so. This will be an opportunity to share experiences, tell your stories, learn from each other, and identify the improvements we can make here in the Alaska Region to provide a safe and healthy environment for all employees, volunteers, partners, and the public.

To accomplish these Engagement Sessions, the Alaska Region will be aided by two regional safety catalysts, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist Karen Kromrey from the Chugach National Forest and District Fisheries Technician Peter Roginski from the Tongass National Forest. Beth and I have great confidence in Karen's and Peter's abilities to complete the rigorous training this month with peers from across the agency and then guide some 20 - 30 sessions in Alaska with the help of our middle and senior leadership at the forest and regional levels. We also have

tremendous confidence in each of you to fully engage in these sessions, to share your experiences and what you have learned, and to offer suggestions to transform safety from a program to a core value

In addition to the Safety Engagement sessions, there will be many other opportunities to personally engage in the safety journey regionally and locally. Your participation in annual safety training, unit safety committees and activities, unit safety reviews and inspections, and skill building in accident prevention, facilitated learning, risk management, and human performance, all part of our safety journey. Of special note are the scheduled workshops being hosted by Ben Iverson, Ivan Pupuly, and Todd Conklin on *Human Performance Improvement Fundamentals*.

We are also integrating public safety into our journey, as a base element in our focus on safety culture. We recognize that there are many hazards and risks inherent in outdoor recreation activities in Alaska. I ask that we are vigilant about assessing the hazards and risks to our visitors, and taking

appropriate actions to inform visitors. We need to respond in a way that demonstrates the same level of concern that we have for our own families within the natural settings we manage in Alaska.

Our commitment to the safety of employees and the public is reflected each day in our actions and our behaviors. I encourage and challenge you to engage in the safety journey, to speak up and say "no-go" to an unsafe situation, and share near misses in a way that makes it a learning opportunity for all of us. We have an opportunity to create an environment, for both employees and the public, which reflects our shared commitment to safety. Join us on this journey.

Wrangell Ranger District Wins Annual Safety Award

By William Moulton, Safety Officer, Tongass National Forest



Deputy Forest Supervisor Tricia O'Connor presents the annual Tongass NF Safety Award to District Ranger Bob Dalrymple. Photo by Carol Goularte.

Congratulations to Wrangell District Ranger Bob Dalrymple who was recently presented with the 2010 Tongass Safety Award by Deputy Forest Supervisor Tricia O'Connor. He not only received a unique, handsome wooden trophy carved by Tongass employee Eric Larson, but was surprised to learn that each employee working on the district in 2010 was awarded four hours of annual leave. He was proud of the recognition given to Wrangell employees by their peers. "The time off made the award more meaningful, made it even more special," said Dalrymple.

Of four nominated units, the Tongass National Forest Safety Committee selected the Wrangell District because of their strong commitment to safety on all levels. The district ensures remotely supervised and non-traditional employees attend safety meetings, staff meetings and training sessions. A representative from each staff group partici-

pates in the annual facilities inspection. Employees are trained in what to look for on the inspections and everyone participates in the abatement phase. This makes the inspection process go smoothly. In spring 2010, the district cleaned up their warehouse, vehicle bays, carpentry shop, maintenance garage, outbuildings and outside storage. Employees removed an unsafe deck and backfilled the area with gravel. Many items were sent to surplus, recycled and cleared out. Employees commented on how cathartic the process was once they were done, and about how much more room they had in storage areas.

Over the past three years, employees have greatly improved the requirements for labeling, transporting, and storing fuel and propane. They pushed to move to renewable energy resources and phase out the use of gas and oil where applicable. The new Anan Float House was retrofitted with solar power and fuel

cell technology and updated to meet OSHA standards and clean water requirements. The old cabin on the compound, formerly an office space, was determined to be unsafe and too crowded for the fire crew, which has been relocated.

The district sponsored a highly effective effort to improve awareness and understanding of safety goals and objectives. They sponsored a hardhat safety inspection day—all employees brought in their hardhats for a group inspection. Many employees expressed surprise that the hardhats needed to be replaced, and gained a new understanding of hardhat requirements. A hardhat dating and replacement system was set up, and old hardhats ended up in the recycle bin with other plastics.

Wrangell Ranger District participates in the local Community Health Fair. All employees get health screenings to help them keep track of their health and wellness goals. Several employees are members of the Healthy Wrangell Coalition Board which serves to improve health and wellness in Wrangell and bring new fitness and wellness classes to the community.

Monthly family meetings always include a safety message. Besides the topics already mentioned, safety training covers the Emergency Action Plan, fire drills, fire extinguisher inspections, first aid supplies, winter driving conditions, distracted driving, winter boating survival, check key exchange, seasonal affective disorder, fire prevention in the dry weather, and a review of field camp procedures. For these reasons, Dalrymple said that the district has had a "good strong safety program for a good long while!"

Winner of the Safety Quiz

By William Moulton, Safety Officer, Tongass National Forest

Jessica Davila, fisheries technician at Ketchikan-Misty Ranger District, literally threw her arms up in the air and jumped for joy when she figured out why her supervisor Will Young had called her into the conference room at the Discovery Center. The Tongass National Forest Safety Committee was there waiting

anxiously to present her with a bag full of safety related prizes provided Pat Moulton. Davila was the winner of the “Take the Safety Quiz” contest presented in the Summer 2010 issue of *SourDough Notes*.

When asked what she thought about winning the safety quiz, Davila said, “Great! I love learning and

winning stuff.” The most interesting tip she found in her research was, “not to fill gas cans from inside your car.”

Her supervisor, Will Young, as he presented her with the prizes, commented on how happy he was that one of his employees took the time to take the quiz.

1. **What are the proper settings for the tool rest and tongue guard on a bench grinder?**

The tool rest must be placed at a distance of 1/8 inch from the grinding wheel, while the tongue guard should be at a distance of 1/4 of an inch away. Once the grinding wheel begins to wear over time, you will have to alter the position of the tool rest and tongue guard.

2. **What activities are prohibited when driving a Forest Service vehicle?**

Engaging in distracting conversation or activities; eating or drinking; using a two-way radio or cellular phone; using headphones; taking prescription drugs that cause dizziness, loss of concentration or reduced response time; reading maps, instructions, or other material; or transporting pets.

3. **What is the “Rule of 10” in stream crossing?**

Estimate the depth of water in feet and the velocity of the moving water in feet per second. Multiply the depth in feet times velocity in feet per second, and if the product is 10 or above, don't plan on keeping your balance if you attempt to wade across this stream flow!



Jessica Davila

4. **Fall arrest systems, safety net systems or guardrail systems should be using when working how many feet above the ground? Six feet**

5. **Why should you fill gas cans on the ground?** *There is a potential risk of fire due to static electricity buildup when filling a portable container, especially if the fuel can is left in the trunk of a car or the back of a pickup.*

6. **All watercraft operator trainees should have a minimum of how many hours of experience operating in similar watercraft in local Alaska waters? 40 hours**

7. **All permanent and temporary field camps will have what major first aid supplies?**

Trauma kit; fire extinguisher; and a cache of emergency survival provisions suitable to sustain the maximum number of occupants for a minimum of three days. Seasonal field camps and admin sites should have: basic first aid kit; trauma kit; backboard; stokes litter; and emergency ration supplies for search-and-rescue functions.

8. **In the event of an employee accident/injury what is the NOT transmitted over the radio? The person's name.**

Trails on Prince of Wales...We've Come a Long Way

By Katie Rooks, Recreation Technician Crew Leader, Craig Ranger District

In one of our recent spring cleaning efforts on Craig Ranger District, I was riffling through old files and found some photos that transported me to other times, not that awfully long ago. Smiling faces, Carhartts, and scenic vistas abound in this stash of recreation crew photos from the late 1970s through the 1990s. As I looked through them, I recognized faces of more than a few people that I've known and worked with on the Craig and Thorne Bay ranger districts for the past eight years.

There were pictures of Youth Conservation Corps crew members using hand chisels to carve out notches in logs for steps and cutting down trees with Pulaskis. Our former staff officer was in my current field-going position back in those days, and in one photo he looks impossibly young and bearded—he was even wearing a tie-dyed T-shirt! Knowing him in more recent years, I found it hard to imagine he had even owned such a garment. There were also many faces of folks that have come and gone—smiling, happy, sweaty—enjoying hard work in the Alaskan wilderness.

As I look forward to the projects we have scheduled for this year, I get excited that our recreation program is planning to accomplish new things. Many of our trails on Prince of Wales Island are less than a mile in length. This is something that we in recreation would like to change, one trail at a time. We would like to be able to provide hiking opportunities for many user groups, from the serious alpinist hiker or hunter to the casual weekend warrior who just wants a little fresh air or a good dog-walking opportunity.



The 2010 Youth Conservation Corps crew members Cody Williams, Sheila Bird, Brandon Taylor and Karl Benolken work on the new Harris River Interpretive Trail on the Craig Ranger District. Photo by Paul Olson.

One Duck Trail was originally built in the 1980s and reconstructed last year. The trail offers spectacular views from the top where a wide open alpine area beckons. Although much of the work was contracted, recreation staff put in many hours of planning and making small repairs. They added hand-built “accessories” such as rustic benches that YCC crews created out of yellow cedar rounds with planks spiked between them.

Red Bay Lake Trail, reconstructed in 2009, was a project that was completed by recreation staff with the invaluable help of two YCC crews along with Eric Abele’s amazing skills in cable rigging. We winched two giant log stringers through the forest that would be-

come a new bridge across a salmon stream. Then, we hauled lumber one piece at a time up and down the 1.25 mile long trail to create a boardwalk. We helicoptered tons of gravel to create a solid trail base in some of the drier areas. Red Bay Trail’s surface is now a beautiful yellow-cedar boardwalk that keeps hikers out of the mud as they traverse through some of the island’s largest trees, muskegs, and streams on their way to the lake shore.

This year, the Craig and Thorne Bay recreation program has been able to improve a trail in the Craig city limits. Sunnahae Trail was first built by the Civilian Conservation Corps decades ago. Over many years and several changes in ownership, the trail has fallen into disrepair.

Now that it is under Forest Service jurisdiction again, we hope to reconstruct and improve it for the benefit of local users and visitors alike. We are planning to gently wind the Sunnahae Trail up the mountain by creating numerous gradual switchbacks that will make the trail easier for the hiker while protecting the mountainside from erosion and washouts. Informal plans include construction of several rustic “rest areas” along the way. Once reaching the top of the trail, hikers will enjoy vistas of the ocean and the surrounding mountains and islands.

Another addition to our trails program on Prince of Wales Island involves Off Highway Vehicle trails. Over the past couple of years, Tory

Houser and other recreation staff have worked closely with the local Prince of Wales Off-Road Club to form a mutually-beneficial partnership. Many OHV group members have volunteered to cut firewood for cabins, clean litter from recreation sites, and help with many more activities in support of our recreation program.

Finally, these volunteers will be able to enjoy a new OHV trails network on the island thanks to Resource Advisory Council funds and the work completed by OHV group members and the recreation staff. The RAC recently approved funding for the completion of a 17-mile-loop OHV trail named Boyscout Trail near Thorne Bay. The RAC

also approved a 1.5-mile connector trail to complete a 10-mile loop off of the Polk Road.

Our recreation team is also working with Kevin Meyer, an OHV trail expert from the National Park Service, and OHV group volunteers, on other OHV trail system plans.

As I look through my own photo of past YCC crews I’ve led, I know that not too long from now, someone will look at me and say, “Wow, I can’t believe that’s you, with a chainsaw on your shoulder and a 30-lb. pack on your back!”

Until then, I’m going to build trails until my body won’t let me.

Come visit our new, improved trails system on Prince of Wales Island.

You Make the Difference

By William Moulton, Safety Officer, Tongass National Forest

Forest Supervisor Forrest Cole wrote to the employees of the Tongass National Forest, saying, “Ask yourself, does a co-worker make an extra effort for safety? Did someone you know fix an unsafe situation? Perhaps they did something unsafe, but moved quickly to correct the situation?”

If so, he asked them to nominate their co-workers for a *You Make the Difference!* award. Since last November, 40 employees received the award; several were nominated by more than one person.

Nominators simply send a note to Forest Safety Officer Bill Moulton, explaining in 25 words or less how the nominee’s effort affected safety in the workplace. At the next family meeting, nominees are recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation by their line or staff officer and a receive a small non-monetary award from the Tongass National Forest.

Credit should be given to the pre-unification Stikine Human Rights Action Group who came up with the original awards concept many years ago in conjunction with the Washington Office push for the *You Make the Difference!* slogan.



Award pin

Some recent winners of the *You Make The Difference!* Award include:

- Dave Barto
- Chris Budke
- Melissa Cady
- Nancy Soriano
- Sherri Cessnum
- Tim Chittenden
- Forrest Cole
- Matt Durfey
- Jenn Elliott
- Dan Flickinger
- Christy Gardner
- Carol Goularte
- Vivian Hjort
- Cameron Jamieson
- Jason Johnson
- Melinda Kuharich
- Eric Larson
- Gary Lawton
- Bob Lippert
- Tricia O’Connor
- Jeremy Padilla
- Jerry Patterson
- Mark Pempek
- Donna Pratt
- Dennis Reed
- Ginger Ressler
- Rusty Reynolds
- Peter Roginski
- Ted Sandhofer
- Frank Sheppard
- Jane Smith
- Alicia Stearns
- Nate Stearns
- Adam Treholm
- Ken Vaughan
- Mike Wild

A Leap of Faith

By Ed Grossman, Recreation Program Manager, Juneau Ranger District

It was Martin Luther King, Jr. who said, “Faith is taking the first step even when you do not see the whole staircase.”

In the early 1900s, one of Alaska’s earliest hydro-power projects had a power house about a third of a mile south of the present Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. There was an aerial tramway and rail system to service the pipeline that brought water from the distant Nugget Falls Creek. At the powerhouse, or pipeline terminus, there was a trestle bridge that was eventually removed by the U.S. Forest Service in the 1970s due to safety and liability concerns. Concrete foundation blocks that formally supported the trestle and the powerhouse foundation remain to this day. Juneau’s Under Thunder, Powerline, and Trail of Time Trails all connect through the former powerhouse and trestle site.

Last summer, as the Juneau Ranger District’s Trail of Time project went into overdrive, and the City of Juneau’s Under Thunder trail project marched up the Mendenhall Valley, it became readily apparent we were going to see a bottleneck in connecting these great trails. With the trestle gone, the steep, broken, and often treacherous rock face separating trails left the Trails Program with a real challenge. Alternatives to safely join the gap included a giant fill ramp, trestle reconstruction, or a stone staircase.

Dave Hanna, of Alaska Concrete Casting, is an avid hiker and supporter of Juneau’s trail system. He had approached the District with the idea of fabricating concrete planks that would be similar to wood planks in weight. If he could perfect the strengthening material needed within, the planks could be colored to blend in with the natural surroundings, textured to provide a non-slip surface, and would never rot. In our conversations, we noted our dilemma described above. Dave assessed the powerhouse site and indicated he could cast custom steps to help us safely ascend and join the gap in trails.

So the Trails Program took faith in Dave’s idea, and a procurement request was made. Alaska Concrete Casting eventually got the bid to fabricate more than 20 custom steps at \$150 a copy. They are textured for traction, molded in front to blend with the natural rock face, and wide and deep enough to allow for groups to pass together. The steps were manufactured with a countersunk lifting bar, so a skid steer could be used to move the 900 pound slabs into position. Even the concrete recipe



Installation of concrete steps at the Trail of Time.
Photos by Peter Cross.

was custom as Dave knew this site rarely dries out, and will see a lot of traffic. The mix incorporated silica fume which makes the concrete more dense, and thus more wear resistant and impermeable to water. The same mixture is being used on modern boat launch ramps, and has worked very well.

Juneau Ranger District trail crew members Peter Cross, Matt Adams, Sarah Harwell, Adam Kackstetter, Dale McFarlin, Matt Thompson, and Collin Wigfield-Gorka finished the installation of the steps in October. The public’s response to the improvements has been very positive, and a formally little used section of trail is now bustling with activity every day. Now that I see the attractiveness and functionality of the whole staircase, I can confirm that Martin Luther King, Jr. was right. Sometimes it’s worth a leap of faith.

Conservation Connections

Forest Service CRIMBI representatives Erin Cooper, Melissa Cady, Cheryl Carrothers & Teresa Benson travel to Colombia

Working for the Forest Service in Alaska is a tremendous opportunity. But the magnitude of our responsibilities at home can make it challenging to think beyond our borders and consider how what we do here and now can affect populations of migratory species a continent away. And conversely, it's important for us to recognize that what happens in the rural communities of Colombia or Panama or Peru can influence the health and abundance of "our" migratory populations as well. These migratory wanderers include birds, bats, butterflies, dragonflies and many more, but nothing exemplifies our global connectedness more than migratory birds. Their migration stories are epic, with each individual covering thousands of miles amid a myriad of perils. These stories of struggle and connectivity inspire conservation across the flyways of these birds. Such was the inspiration of the Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative.

CRIMBI started in 2001 as a collaborative effort to share conservation for waterbirds along the Pacific Flyway. Founding partners USFS, Ducks Unlimited and Pronatura of Mexico were soon joined by partners from Panama, Colombia, and Ecuador. From the start, CRIMBI focused support toward making a difference on the ground. Projects have included flyway-wide education, mangrove restoration, pond ecology assessment, and in-country development of shorebird plans to name a few. This is an ongoing collaboration that culminates in an annual partner meeting. These meetings include time for partners to share project successes and challenges and discuss plans for future work. Although most of these

meetings have occurred within the U.S., every five years the group has chosen to meet in the country of one of our Latin American partners.

In fall 2010, for example, CRIMBI partners from seven countries gathered in Santa Marta, Colombia, for our annual meeting. Other meeting participants included local community leaders, and representatives from national conservation groups working in Central and South America. Our hosts this year, Calidris, coordinated field visits for us all to see firsthand many of the challenges to conservation they experience in a selection of Colombian hotspots for endemism. This meeting gave participants, including and especially those of us from the U.S., the opportunity to truly connect to our Latin American partners as well as understand their conservation challenges and issues.

The value of this experience was nicely summarized by Melissa Cady. "My experience participating in the CRIMBI meeting in Colombia was both personally and professionally rewarding. I learned so much from our international partners and was surprised to find that we face many of the same issues and challenges though we work in different ecosystems and on different continents. I was really happy to be able to share Tongass experiences that my Colombian and Panamanian partners found helpful in their work. I left feeling connected not only by the migratory bird species we share in the flyway,



Cheryl Carrothers, Deigo Luna Quevedo, and Melissa Cady. Photo by Teresa Benson.

but also by the respect, camaraderie, and collaborative spirit of partnership that we share across the hemisphere."

It's easy to have our day-to-day workloads hold our focus locally, and to forget that our efforts can have international significance. It is through our connections with our Latin American partners that we are able to expand well beyond our common interests and to take part in the global efforts supporting conservation of shorebirds and their habitats. We've found that if we limit our thinking and management to just those lands within our (U.S.) continental boundaries, we limit our effectiveness as well. We cannot hope to manage for local species without recognizing their relationship with the global community. Fortunately for us and the shared resources we manage, CRIMBI has contributed not only to improvement of shorebird management across the hemisphere, but has also contributed to the development of the skills, abilities and professional enrichment of our employees as well.

Travelogue: Africa

By John Neary, Wilderness Manager, detailed as Africa Program Specialist, Int'l Programs

Hi! I'm in Ntumgano, one of the best kept secrets of Uganda, which must be one of the best kept secrets of the adventure travel world. Known mostly for its gorilla tracking potential, I am here to help lay a path through a small patch of forest in order to empower a village to lift itself from poverty through tourism jobs. Several of my previous African assignments have kept me pretty far from the end product, working away in the capital on national or regional issues. But now and again I have a chance to see the end product and meet the villagers.

Buniga Forest is a tiny patch of community forest just outside of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Southwest Uganda. Buniga was once connected to a vast forest that encompassed all of western Uganda, populated by a dozen species of primates including great apes like chimps and gorillas. Now, with farms and fields surrounding it, Buniga is a small gem saved from the axe by the wisdom of a community that hopes for more. Ntumgano is the end of the road, not far from the Democratic

Republic of the Congo border, very far from Kampala or any other major city. It was a forgotten corner until the International Gorilla Conservation Program and Ugandan Wildlife Authority brought the idea of gorilla tourism as an economic engine for poverty alleviation. Whereas I often think the idea has more promise than product, it will be different here thanks to the gorillas, stunning scenery, and friendly people. I haven't seen this many smiles in a very long time. Much to my surprise I realized today that I'm the only mazungo around (other than the lodge manager). I hardly noticed and it's because the people are just people, unaffected by the downside of tourism poverty that sets us apart so often.

We scouted trail routes with two Batwa guides who connected us to their ancient pygmy ways by showing where they gathered leaves and honey, hid from dangers or prayed to their forbearers. They are animated and remarkably short. The trail is intended to empower them through jobs as guides, and to teach us about their culture and the vanishing plight of forest people globally. My job is to make the trail interesting and safe to walk, attractive but sustainable to maintain, full of potential for natural and cultural interpretation.



Sipi and Grace at the office of the Nkuringo Conservation Development Fund

I laid out a 1-km. route with flags along switchbacks and taught about how mazungos can't walk up slopes above 25% without losing their breath or slipping to the ground. The Ugandans understood; they must have all experienced mazungo tourists in the forest. Grace, the tourism director for NCDF (Nkuringo Conservation Development Fund) was there with her remarkable teeth, and Sipi with his gentle smile and vast knowledge of birds. James, warden for the southern sector of Bwindi Park, participated too. Even he has an easiness that I find disarming. I would think he'd be very busy running the law enforcement, tourism and conservation programs for the southern sector of the park, but he still lent a hand in trail decisions for this tiny forest.



Sipi takes in the sites at the Buniga Forest edge.

forest. Perhaps it's because he lives in the community and knows the importance of even a single job. It's a little like a senior staff member of the Tongass National Forest moving to Angoon to take part in a community project on their land. We are so busy taking care of our national forest that it rarely happens. There are lessons to be learned here.

Cheers!



John Neary discusses pitsawing.

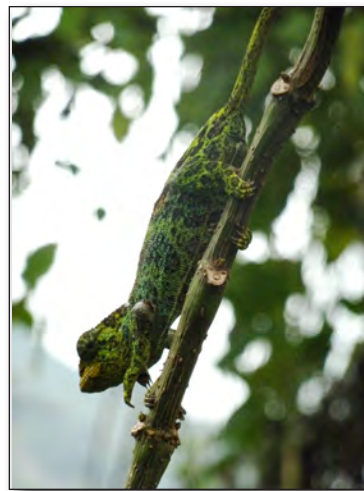
Gateway to Ruwenzori National Park

The Ruwenzori Mountains National Park begins in Ruboni Community, western Uganda. Beyond this rough road rise spectacular mountains capped in glaciers which can only be reached across boggy trails. Speckled with musty huts that attempt to fend off persistent rain, the Romans named these 5,100 meter peaks the "Mountains of the Moon" highest source of the Nile. They are certainly the highest point in Uganda, third-highest in Africa, and highest on my list of African peaks to someday climb. Most people say they are

Africa's toughest, far more difficult than Kenya or Kilimanjaro thanks to those muddy bogs, drenching rains or blowing snow. Sounds a bit like home, actually.

The U.S. Agency for International Development is funding this Forest Service work through a program called Sustainable Tourism for the Albertine Rift, the rift being a backbone of mountains that divide Uganda from Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. A hundred acres of regenerating farmland at the entry to Ruwenzori National Park need protection from wood cutting, hopefully by way of income from park tourists. Some visitors apparently don't want to climb thousands of meters through muddy bogs and would instead prefer to walk an easy trail through pleasant forest just outside their comfortable room at the *Equator Snow Lodge*. Who came up with that reasoning? Well, it doesn't matter because it's a great excuse to poke around the forest, dreaming of someday climbing to the lofty summits. I'm happily back in my XtraTuf boots following Enoch the guide and a few other chaps with sharp pangas who know the area as if they were born here and spent their lives outside, which they have.

The lower boundary of the forest is the river Mubuku thundering over huge, rounded boulders as it sings the untamable chatter of mountains. Steep slopes above this forest are farmed to their summits by the Bakonjo, a mountain tribe who cultivates maize, beans, potato and cabbage, and seem to prefer their homes high on the slopes. There isn't an



Chameleon

easily accessible market for their vegetables, however. This morning, while climbing beyond the forest into community land for a broader view, I noticed a grandmother and her young grandchild descending with huge sacks on their heads, placing each bare-soled step carefully to avoid the slipperiness

of a narrow path still wet from rain. After the bottom of this long slope they still have several kilometers of walking to the market. Cash from tourism is helping. A majority of families nearby have at least some income from tourism services and our American program is providing technical assistance towards sustainability. I'm part of a team of five, including three Ugandans and a Peace Corps volunteer who are introducing words like "product" and "service" to community members planning for their businesses.

As we cut our way through dense forest vines, I can't miss the mark of pit-sawyers who have cut indigenous trees from this protected piece of land. Planks are sawn by hand with a 2.5 meter rip saw, one man balanced precariously above on their assembled pole frame, while the other chokes off dust falling into the pit below. Proud wilderness rangers in America boast of their traditional saw skills, but I'd like to see them rip consistent planks from a hardwood cant measuring 40 cm wide and 3 meters long, all day long, days at a time. This is an African sawmill, and while it doesn't belong in a recovering forest, someone has to provide alternatives before condemning the sawyer. There is much work to be done here.

Exciting Discovery in the Alpine

By Ellen Anderson, Botanist, Juneau & Yakutat Ranger Districts and Admiralty National Monument

Half the fun of doing sensitive and rare plant surveys is actually finding some. Even more rewarding is finding something that has never been reported in Alaska before. That is exactly what happened during summer 2009 when I joined botanist Brad Kriekhaus (Sitka and Hoonah ranger districts) to conduct surveys on the alpine ridge north of Hecla Greens Creek Mine, north Admiralty Island.

Perched on the top of a rock outcrop was a beautiful clump of crab-eye lichen (*Acrosyphus sphaerophoroides* Lév). Another clump was found during that survey about 200 meters away on a similar outcrop. Subsequent 2010 surveys on the north and south ridges of the mine brought the total to 11 separate populations; several on both ridges,



Crab-eye lichen with attendant mosses and other lichens. Photo by Ellen Anderson.

all on rock outcrops between 795 meters and 964 meters elevation. Some rocks had several clumps in various stages of development.

This discovery is notable since, as of 1984, fewer than a dozen locations were known worldwide. Its distribution included reports in southern Mexico, Peru, South

Africa, Bhutan, southern China and Japan. Sites closer to the equator were at 4,000 m. In 1990, this lichen was found growing at elevations of 1,300 meters or less at three sites in British Columbia coastal mountains; in 2002 at one site in northern Washington's western Cascades.

It is not unknown for lichen species with such wide distribution to be found in Southeast Alaska, as we have other Asian, and even tropical South American lichens here. Our position on the Pacific Rim, mild climate, and many different, some difficult to access, distribution zones make it likely others are out there waiting to be found. In fact, a recent intensive inventory of lichens of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park, including the Chilkoot Trail and White Pass area, revealed a total of 766 taxa: five are new to science; 75 have not yet been determined; 34 are new for North America; five eastern species reported for the first time in the west; and 196 taxa are new for Alaska. The researchers estimate there could be at least 1,000 lichen taxa in that area.

Crab-eye lichen is known to grow on wood and rock. Its heavy spores are produced in slightly recessed cups at the tips of the "crab eyes" and are more likely spread by animals than by wind. Evidence at the Greens Creek sites suggests birds are the main vectors for dispersal. The body of the lichen is solid, tough and difficult to break off by hand (personal experience), and could probably withstand the repeated perching



Botanists Brad Kriekhaus and Ellen Anderson examine a typical rock outcrop with crab-eye lichen on top. Photo by Thor Eide.

of birds. At one location bird droppings were on the crab-eye clump. Other lichens that prefer high nitrogen conditions, like those found on



A juvenile red-tailed hawk perched on a rock outcrop. Photo by Ellen Anderson.

or near bird perches, were observed below several of the populations. Positions of the outcrops in the landscape provided suitable observation points for birds; a juvenile red-tailed hawk was observed sitting on such an outcrop. I tested the idea of spores sticking to bird feet by touching the spore-forming tip; a cluster of black spores remained on my finger and did not dislodge with a simple shake.

The rarity of this species of lichen is currently not ranked globally, but is ranked S1 in Canada, meaning it is “Critically imperiled in state because of extreme rarity or some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state.” It has been recommended to receive a similar rank in Washington. The draft Alaska Rare Lichen List being prepared by Alaska Natural Heritage Program gives it a rank of S1. Bruce McCune and Linda Geiser remarked in their description of this species in *Macrolichens of the Pacific Northwest*, “Perhaps the rarest macrolichen in the PNW....”

So if you are fortunate enough to make a trip to the high country, keep an eye out for this stunning lichen. If you do find any, please record the location (GPS point is ideal), take some pictures, and let us know.

Scheffler Creek Helpers

By Ruby Lindquist, Student at Seward Elementary School

The rush of water and the talking of fifth graders about salmon streams can be heard every month at Scheffler Creek [near Seward, Alaska].

Mrs. Barnwell and her fifth grade class have been taking data and water samples at Scheffler Creek, with help from parents, and Ruth D’Amico and Katy Toth Stable from the Seward Ranger District. The reason that they are doing this is because people have noticed the decline in the number of salmon returning to Scheffler Creek.

In fact, only one salmon was found by the fifth graders.

Three years ago there was a flood at Scheffler Creek and people think that was one of the reasons that salmon are not coming back to the creek to spawn.

Scheffler Creek is located along Phoenix Road and flows right past the horse pasture before dumping into the lagoon across from the harbor.

When Ruth took one of the bacteria tests, we found out that there were definitely bacteria in Scheff-



Fifth graders from Seward Elementary School take water samples from Scheffler Creek.

ler Creek. One of the reasons that they think that there was bacteria may have occurred is because all the trash on Dora Way washes right into Scheffler Creek.

Just recently, the Seward Elementary School adopted Scheffler Creek. Not only because there were very few salmon in it but also because it

was the closest stream to the school.

The fifth grade class hopes that the health of the stream will get better, but the real question for the future is: Will the salmon come back?

They may or may not, but no one really knows.

(Ruby is the daughter of Forest Service employee Irene Lindquist.)

Our Job is to Make Your Job Easier

Introducing the Region's Information Management Staff

By Andrea Gehrke, Director



Left to right: Dustin Wittwer, Gary Drost, Mark Riley, Kelly Hall, Pauline Plumb, Erik Johnson, Andrea Gehrke, Joe Calderwood, Robert Goetz, Rick Griffen, Bob Frances, Gene Miller. Photo by Ray Massey.

The definition of “information,” according to *Webster’s Dictionary*, is:

- Something told; news; intelligence; word.
- Knowledge acquired in any manner; facts; data; learning; lore.
- A person or agency answering questions as a service to others.
- Data that can be stored in and retrieved from a computer.

In short, information is simply a resource, and should be managed in the same way we take care of all our valuable resources. Over a year ago, the regional forester and the Deputy Chief for Business Operations recognized the need to create a new Information Management organization for the Alaska Region. An implementation plan was signed by the Regional Forester and the president of the NFFE Local 251 March 11, 2010. Since then, we have been implementing the stand-up of the organization; the staff is almost entirely in place with just one vacancy out of 15 positions.

Our vision is to become leaders in information resource innovation and customer service. Our mission is to provide you with the tools, products, and services that enable you to accomplish the business of the Forest Service at the field and national levels; as well as providing data and services to the general public. In one of our first meetings, we identified the characteristics to help us reach our customer service goals. We want to be not only knowledgeable in our areas of expertise, but to be available when called on, responsible for meeting your needs, and flexible when the situation calls for it.

Some of the products and services we provide include maps, data downloads, aerial photography, and satellite imagery. We also offer technical support and coordination for a variety of information systems including:

- Regional Web Services for WWW Portal and FS Web
- Natural Resource Manager applications, including:
 - I-Web (Infra)

- Natural Resource Information System (NRIS)
- Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS)
- Timber Information Manager (TIM)
- Geospatial Interface (GI)
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Cartographic Services
- Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) Southeast Alaska GIS Library
- National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)
- Remote Sensing
- Mobile Computing
- Data Management Support

The IM group also works in conjunction with the Chief Information Office on:

- Telecommunications, including radios
- Printers and Plotters
- Coordination of Content Database (O: Drive)

IM STAFF

Andrea Gehrke Director of Information Management. leads the newly-formed IM staff that is responsible for the collection, management, analysis and sharing of data used in the stewardship of the natural and physical resources in the Alaska Region.

Pauline Plumb IM Program Assistant, provides administrative support for the regional IM staff, and also supports the IMD (directors) group nationally.

Geospatial & Technical Services (GATS)

Joe Calderwood, Group Leader, oversees program coordination for the remote sensing, cartography, and communication and information technology services for the region.

Gary Drost, Information Technology (IT) Specialist, is the regional point of contact for communications programs including radios and wireless devices such as cellular phones, BlackBerrys and satellite phones. Gary also coordinates with the forests and the Chief Information Office for computer and printer replacements, video teleconferencing systems, network attached storage devices and wide area network issues.

Bob Francis, Alaska Region Cartographer, oversees the management, development and revision of the Forest Visitor Maps and the Topographic Maps programs. Bob works closely with other regions and the Washington Office to develop cartographic standards, and is the regional representative for Geographic Names and works with the Alaska State Geographic Names Board and U.S. Geological Survey on naming issues.

Rick Griffen, Data Management Specialist, works primarily with Oracle database design, development, and implementation. Rick also provides support for migration and data integration, including the Geospatial Interface (GI).

Kelly Hall, Regional Web Services Program Manager, coordinates technology resources associated with the web including software, servers and hosting services, as well as site technical design and navigation architecture.

Mark Riley, Alaska Regional Remote Sensing Coordinator, manages the remote sensing program and works closely with the forests to provide remote sensing contracting support, new product development, and specialized training in order to help meet management and planning needs. He coordinates remote sensing activities with other Federal, State, and non-governmental agencies in Alaska.

Geographic and Resource Information Systems (GRIS)

Erik Johnson, Group Leader, is responsible for managing and coordinating regional GIS programs and natural resource manager applications including NRIS, I-Web, TIM, FACTS.

Sarah Denali is the regional NRIS Coordinator. Her responsibilities include strategic planning and coordination for a variety of applications under NRIS; leadership for NRIS implementation in Region 10; database development; and data migration. She coordinates with the Washington Office, other regions, and the Tongass and Chugach national forests.

Gary Fisher is the Regional GIS Coordinator. His responsibilities in-

clude the management of GIS software and licensing; management of geospatial data; and geospatial analysis and modeling. He coordinates activities with the other Regional GIS Coordinators and serves on the Geospatial Architecture Committee.

Robert Goetz, Regional I-Web (Infra) Coordinator, provides strategic application coordination and training for I-Web, including: database development and modification of I-Web utilities; development and maintenance of data standards; and coordinating with data stewards, program managers, and all levels of the organization regarding integration of resource information across disciplines. Bob also provides regional support for the Content Database.

Gene Miller oversees Timber Information Manager (TIM), the Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS) and LincPass. He works with Region 10 and Pacific Northwest (PNW) Experiment Station employees, contractors and associates to offer a high level of customer service.

Dustin Wittwer, Geospatial Services Specialist, provides technical expertise and assistance in the use of geospatial software, data, and products. Dustin serves as the Regional Coordinator for Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) and Mobile GIS.

Got a Question? Contact Us

Part of building our new group is making a conscientious effort to work collaboratively with quality customer service standards. Let us know how we can help you.

For contact information and further details about our services, visit: <http://fsweb.r10.fs.fed.us/staffs/im/index.shtml>.

Acquisition Management Workshop

By Deb Strickland, Supervisory Contract Specialist, and Marie Kanan, Procurement Technician

How did you spend your Valentine's Day? Many of us in AQM were off bright and early Monday morning to catch a plane to Ketchikan. AQM members traveled from Anchorage, Juneau, Petersburg, and Sitka to attend our AQM Biennial Workshop.

Since AQM has not had a workshop since 2007, and there are many new faces in the region, this workshop provided a great opportunity for us to meet each other. After the flights, quick ferry rides to the mainland, and getting our lodging, we proceeded to the federal building where we met with Supervisory Contracting Officer Sherman Mayle and his staff. Three days of workshop followed.

We discussed work and action plans, updates on our various work areas, and learned from each other.

There is a lot of change on the horizon for all of us. Discussions during the workshop included the new financial system (FFMI) going into effect in November that will replace FFIS; a new performance contract reporting system (CPARS); the new Advanced Acquisition Plan (AAP) with new mandatory dollar



Back row: Bette Welch, Hal Hoversten, Kim Toland, Kay Steffey, Sherman Mayle, John Inman, Bob Simmons, Darlene Rilatos. Middle: Cathy Rider, Sally Gregory, Della Koelling, Louise Jackson, Karen Weidenbaugh, Kirsten Thweatt, Marie Kanan, Larry Langert. Front: Diane Woodling, Denise Murphy, Deb Strickland

level reporting; ammo and explosive purchases for the Region; interest reports; purchase card problems and information; the new office supplies mandatory BPA from the WO; and a great discussion on restricted purchases.

We heard a short presentation on agreements from our grants and agreements specialists. Our new property management specialist gave an overview of what she is responsible for and on government

housing regulations. The property series (1101) is changing terms from "property" to "asset" and our specialists will be "asset managers."

We received training on payment invoicing; green purchasing, source selection procedures; performance based service acquisition; claims and protests; and price analysis. All in all, it was a very busy productive week. Thank you, Ketchikan Supervisor's Office, for hosting the 2011 AQM Workshop.

2010 Performance Awards

Regional Office

Neil Hagadorn Carol McKenzie

Chugach National Forest

Kurt Russell Bell	Katharine Feichtinger	Daniel Joseph Funk	Rachel Schubert	Adam T. Swain
William R. Brennan	Michael Fitzpatrick	Michael Leahy	Claire E. Shipton	Tara A. Turner
Dilan Chase Brown	David Friedrichsen			

Tongass National Forest

James W. Bauers	Christy R. Gardner	Scott McDonald	Mark E. Schultz	Nathan A. Stearns
Delilah Brigham	Patrick Heuer	Elliott D. Meyer	Christopher Scott	William B. Steele
George Clemens	Richard Jacobson	Ryan J. Mulvihill	Kevin Settles	Julianne Thompson
Marla Dillman	James Ross Kelly	Jeremy J. Padilla	Robert M. Sheets	Patrick Tierney
Daniel Flickinger	Gary R. Lawton	Renaker D. Parks, Jr.	Frank B. Sheppard	Adam M. Tlachac
Joseph P. Ford	Kristen Lease (2)	Britta Schroeder	Sheila R. Spores	Tiffany Triggs

Betty Charnon Receives National Award

By Barbara Schrader, Regional Ecologist

Betty Charnon, Chugach Kenai Zone Ecologist, was recently awarded a National Invasive Species Award for her work in Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) to invasive plants on the forest. Betty has excelled in her invasive plant management program on the Chugach. She has a successful history of building collaboration and educating the public about the impacts of invasive plants on our Alaskan ecosystems.

As Kenai Zone Ecologist, Betty coordinates a challenging work load including not only invasive plant management, but botany and sensitive plant survey work, ecology and restoration projects, and outreach and education too. Covering the new Kenai Zone which includes the Seward and Girdwood Districts keeps her on the move. Betty's knowledge of botany, functioning ecosystems, and how to deal with the public has contributed to her success.

Chugach Forest Supervisor Terri Marceron said, "Betty works closely with a wide variety of partners in cooperative weed management, such as the State Department of Transportation, Girdwood Parks and Recreation, Alyeska Resort, University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service, Kenai Watershed Forum, and local citizens. She has been an active participant in the development and activities of the Anchorage and Kenai Peninsula cooperative weed management areas."

In addition, Charnon leads EDRR and treatment efforts on portion of the Kenai Peninsula which contains the greatest number of invasive plant species of any geographic area of the Chugach. She leads community weed pulls in Girdwood with the help of other Forest Service personnel and Girdwood Parks and Recreation.

Charnon led the development of the forest's first integrated invasive plant management environmental assessment. This EA included the use of herbicides in the toolbox of methods to control populations of invasive plants in the Spencer area of the Glacier Ranger District. Spencer is a place with many human activities including past and future minerals extraction, developments and recreation with the "Whistle Stop project," outfitter/guide activity, and the Alaska



Washington Office Range Director Janette Kaiser presents Betty Charnon with the National Invasive Species EDRR Award.

Railroad. One of the biggest concerns is minerals extraction in invasive plant infested areas, which could spread invasives to wherever the extracted gravels were spread. Due to these concerns, this project was initiated to control invasive plants. Under the integrated approach at Spencer, Betty has led herbicide control, manual control, and invasive plant inventory and monitoring in the area.

Charnon is leading an effort to use an integrated approach to control the highly invasive reed canarygrass in the Russian River area of the Seward Ranger District. Recent inventories have shown that on the Kenai Peninsula, RCG has spread from a few deliberate introduction points to approximately 260 populations across multiple ownerships. Most of these populations are associated with human disturbances, such as boat launches, roads, bridges, and pastures. RCG has, however, spread from these locations along river corridors. Although most Kenai RCG populations are currently small, if their growth and spread is unchecked, the likelihood that they will adversely affect aquatic systems of the Kenai Peninsula is high. Due to the proximity to important fisheries in the Russian River, these populations of RCG are a high priority for eradication.

Marceron said, "Betty is an exemplary employee whose contributions extend well beyond the Ecology, Botany, and Invasive Plant programs. She conducts all of this work with calm professionalism and pleasant demeanor. She exemplifies the highest professional ideals and is a significant contributor to the quality of life in her community of Girdwood."

Yakutat's Tern Is in the Spotlight

By Susan Oehlers, Wildlife Biologist, Yakutat Ranger District

Looking for an excuse to come to Yakutat, or know someone who is? Look no further! The Yakutat Ranger District is busy planning for the First Annual Yakutat Tern Festival, to be held June 2-5.

Every Alaska community has a claim to fame regarding its natural resources, and Yakutat is no exception. One of the largest and southernmost known breeding colonies of Aleutian Terns exists here. The colonies in the Yakutat area appear to be a stronghold for a suspected declining worldwide population.

The Aleutian Tern has a limited range throughout Alaska and eastern Siberia and Russia, and very little is known about this species, including its migration patterns. The Yakutat area is currently at the forefront of Aleutian Tern research, including studies on population trends, nesting ecology, and migration patterns.

The idea of a birding festival in Yakutat has been around for a while. In FY2011, it has become a reality, thanks in part to Forest Service funding. With this seed money in place, other locally based partners got fully on board, including The Yakutat Chamber of Commerce, the National Park Service, Yakutat City and Borough, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, Yak-Tat Kwan, and individual community members. Additional out-of-area partners include the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Our list of partners and sponsors is continuing to expand.

A birding festival planning committee was formed during the summer of 2010. We decided to focus on the tern to set ourselves apart from other Alaskan shorebird themed festivals. By fall, we had brain-stormed

lots of ideas and constructed our mission statement: "The mission of the festival is to highlight the extraordinary natural and cultural resources of Yakutat by hosting a festival celebrating Aleutian and Arctic Terns." Then the real work began! We have been busily planning activities for the festival to appeal to a wide audience, not just serious birders, including; field trips, art exhibits, educational events for kids and adults, a bird banding demonstration, live bird presentations by the Alaska Raptor Center, Native cultural presentations, and guest speakers.

Dr. Brad Andres, co-author of *The Birds of Yakutat*, is the featured key-note speaker, and Preston Singletary, a world-renowned glass blowing artist, is the featured artist. Most recently, with the help of additional partners, we have had the fortune of adding the Salmon in the Trees exhibit, and the author/photographer Amy Gulick will be speaking at the festival!

We are also building community involvement and support, including an art contest to create the festival logo. High school student Maka Monture submitted the winning logo, a Tlingit inspired design, which has been very well received.

We are spreading the word about the festival with the help of our public affairs department and festival partners; we have already received registrations on our festival web-site (www.yakutatfestival.org)!

Why is the Forest Service involved in a birding festival? The tern festival supports several aspects of the Forest Service mission, including conservation education and supporting the local economy. A festival is an amazingly effective way

of unifying a community to promote education and ecotourism evolving around the special natural resources the region has to offer.

Benefits to the local community are many:

- Identifying and marketing Yakutat as a birding destination will increase ecotourism, thus diversifying and strengthening our local economy in these troubling economic times when fishing and other tourism is on the decline. Many Alaskan communities (including Homer, Cordova, and Kenai) have diversified their economic base and enhanced education and conservation opportunities by developing birding-themed festivals. The economic benefits of wildlife viewing such as birding are dramatic. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife study reported that in 2006, American bird watchers spent \$36 billion dollars on birding equipment and associated travel, generating over \$82 billion in total industry output, 671,000 jobs, and \$11 billion in local, state, and federal tax revenue.
- This year's festival will have an emphasis on arts and native culture. Yakutat is an isolated community with minimal exposure to outside cultures and activities. The community will benefit from exposure to visiting artists and speakers.
- Finally, an increased awareness of the significance of our local natural resources will instill a sense of stewardship among the local community, thereby helping to ensure the conservation of these important resources for generations to come.



An Aleutian tern in flight

Why will birders “flock” to Yakutat? What distinguishes Yakutat as a world-class birding destination is its incredible habitat diversity

which translates into opportunities for birders to view over 200 species of birds, over 100 nesting varieties and many rarities, including of course Aleutian as well as Arctic Terns. Spectacular mountain ranges and the Gulf of Alaska squeeze the Yakutat forelands into a narrow corridor for hundreds of thousands of resident and migratory birds. Early June is prime time to see terns up close and personal. In a short distance from Yakutat, birders can hike coastal rainforest trails, float rivers teeming with wild salmon, sea kayak Yakutat

Bay or the nearby fiords, walk miles of sandy beaches, or simply drive a car to gain access to prime birding areas. In addition, Yakutat offers spectacular scenery and wildlife viewing opportunities.

The festival continues to be a learning process for all involved, but plans are coming along nicely and we anticipate a successful first year of the festival. Stay tuned to the next SourDough Notes for a festival update!

For more information on the festival, please visit www.yakutat-tern-festival.org

Golden Eagles Found In Wrangell this Winter

By Joe Delabruue, Wildlife Biologist, Tongass NF

On the morning of December 15, 2010, Forest Service employees, along with Wrangell police, collected a grounded eagle near the cemetery along Zimovia Highway. While bald eagles are a common sight in Wrangell, this one turned out to be a rarely seen golden eagle. It was a first year immature golden eagle which is difficult to distinguish from the common immature bald eagle. The next day another immature golden eagle was spotted by retired US Fish and Wildlife employee Dennis Strom at 3.5 mile Zimovia Highway. This sighting was the first golden eagle to have ever been recorded in the Wrangell Christmas bird count.

The collected eagle had no obvious injuries, but seemed very weak and did not resist capture. Joe Delabruue, Wrangell District Biologist, notified the US Fish and Wildlife Service and sent the eagle to the Juneau Raptor Center.

According to Scot Tiernan of the Juneau Raptor Center, this particular eagle was starving, dehydrated, and was diagnosed with “failure

to thrive.” After further investigation they also found that it had a possible broken second digit on its left foot. Since the Juneau Raptor Center does not have the facilities for over-wintering a golden eagle, they sent the young eagle to Bird TLC in Anchorage. During the Bird TLC admission exam, the broken toe was confirmed and the bird was also found to have a yeast infection known as frounce. Frounce, also known as Trichomoniasis, is a common canker found in pigeons and doves. The infection in the golden eagle was likely the direct result of eating pigeons or rock doves.

The bird now has a bandage on its broken digit and is receiving an anti-fungal medication for the infection, and is expected to make a full recovery. In the mean time, it will be fattened up for the rest of the winter in Anchorage and then released along its natural migration route.

Golden eagles occur occasionally in Southeast Alaska, but the abun-

dance of bald eagles in Southeast Alaska causes most golden eagles to go unnoticed. Immature birds of both species look very similar at first glance, but a first year immature golden eagle can be identified by a white base on its tail feathers, white wing patches, and totally feathered legs.

So why were the golden eagles in Wrangell this time of year? Delabruue thinks the eagles probably left their birthplace in interior Alaska late in the season and flew down the wrong fly-way during fall migration. They ended up in Wrangell with the one eagle too weak to continue or get back on its normal migration track.

For more information contact Joe Delabruue, District Biologist, at (907) 874-2323.



This immature golden eagle awaits its physical examination at the Juneau Raptor Center.

Growing Healthy Children from the Ground Up

By Michele Parker, Tongass Environmental Engineer

The Tongass National Forest has entered into a five-year participating agreement with the Petersburg School District to document the parties' cooperation in funding the development and dissemination of curricula related to and promoting sustainable operations and conservation education. It will also connect kids to the forest and encourage youth to consider natural resource careers.

The Forest Service is working to create an informed citizenry by connecting kids to their local environment through the Adopt-A-School Program, which exposes students, teachers and their community to the Forest Service and the nation's natural resources. By building relationships through muskeg and stream walks, recycling and tree planting demonstration, milk jug bird house activities, tours of waste water and water treatment plants and baler facilities, worm composting demonstrations, electric car rides, organic food tasting, and making mini-green house terrariums, the Forest Service helps schools connect to the natural world. The Forest Service's goal is to adopt a school in every state. Petersburg City School District is the first school adopted under the Adopt-A-School Program within Alaska.

The Forest Service worked with students and faculty to help them start an Elementary School Earth Club at Rae C. Stedman Elementary School in Petersburg three years ago, that meets weekly. The club has been working

on sustainability-related projects, including recycling, a reduce/reuse/recycle poster contest, designing an earth club logo, worm composting, making and selling good-on-one-side (GOOS) booklets. They are also coordinating Earth Day Events with the Elementary School, Forest Service, Petersburg Indian Association (PIA), City of Petersburg and local community members and businesses. Proceeds from selling the GOOS notebooks have gone towards funding a dishwasher for the school cafeteria in order to eliminate the use of Styrofoam trays.

the capacity of an ordinary compactor. It reduces emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

The Forest Service is providing funding, leadership and staff support for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of a Petersburg City School District Garden and conservation education teaching/learning area behind the elementary school. The Petersburg City School District Garden will encourage children to make good food choices, augment classroom studies with experiential learning, build a love of nature, stimulate social interaction, and facilitate cultural exchange.

The garden will foster excellent community involvement, provide nutritious produce for school lunches, encourage youth and adult interaction, and increase kids' physical activity and awareness of the nutritional value of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Teachers can use gardening as a wonderful supplement to the school curriculum. Finding a way to make science relevant to students is one of the most challenging aspects of teaching. School

gardens, grown and maintained by teachers and students, bring to life important scientific concepts, such as decomposition through worm composting and the process of going from seed to harvest.

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Specifically, the Forest Service Tongass Green Team (TGT) Charter



*The Big Belly Solar Trash Compactor is completely self-powered.
Photo by Michele Parker.*

The high school also has an Earth Club and the middle school just started one. Their clubs have been working on building raised cedar beds and benches for the community garden.

The Forest Service, through its Office of Sustainable Operations, has provided a Big Belly Solar Trash Compactor to our partnership school. The Big Belly is a compacting trash receptacle that is completely self-powered and uses solar power for 100% of its energy needs. A Big Belly has five times

states “The TGT will also work with members of the local community or other state, federal, or local agencies so that sustainable operations efforts can become successful on a larger more community- or ecosystem-connected basis.”

As stewards of the environment, the Forest Service and Petersburg City Schools are committed to efficiently using energy and reducing consumption of resources in our daily operations. Advancing

partnerships with diverse communities is key to help the nation achieve long-term energy and water conservation and promotes life-long learning about the environment. The Forest Service has a long-term vested interest in the success of the Adopt-A-School Program and the Petersburg City School District Garden because it is promoting sustainable operation efforts on a community-connected basis; it is growing healthy children from the ground up!



Over Land and on the Sea Interpretation by Juneau Ranger District is Exceptional

By Laurie Lamm, TMH Asst. Director, and Kristi Kantola, Interpretation/CE Specialist

On land and on the sea, the Juneau Ranger District is providing award-winning interpretation. Congratulations are extended to two JRD interpreters who have received regional awards.

Ron Marwin



Ron Marwin was named the recipient of the 2010 D. Robert Hakala Excellence in Interpretation and Conservation Education Award. Marwin is the director at Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. In an amazing juggling act, he manages the visitor center, provides oversight for the district Conservation Education program, and directs operation of the Tongass Marine Highway Interpretive Program.

Former District Ranger Pete Griffin, who nominated Marwin, said

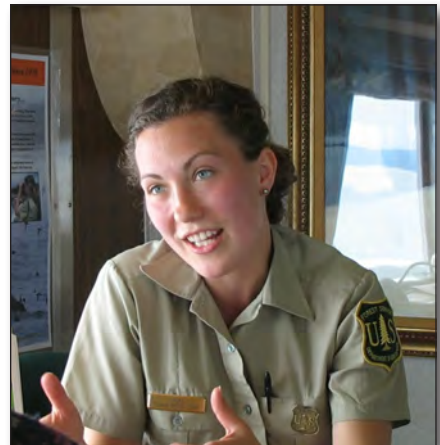
“Ron’s work has been characterized by constant improvement and the search for new ways of reaching the public with information about the natural world.”

Marwin traveled to the National Association for Interpretation Workshop in Las Vegas, Nev., November 16-20, 2010, where he was the Alaska Region nominee for the national Gifford Pinchot Excellence in Interpretation and Conservation Education award.

Laura Goff received the 2010 Seasonal Interpreter/Conservation Educator of the Year Award. Goff was a Visitor Services Information Assistant/Interpretive Naturalist for the Tongass Marine Highway Interpretive program. Laura was recognized for the exceptional quality of her interpretive programs and the thoroughness with which she did her job. Her creativity in presenting programs was especially noted. For her “Recipe for a Glacier” program, Laura posed as a cooking show hostess. In her bald eagles program she highlighted the relevance of bald eagles to American culture, by asking the audience how many of them had brought a Harley Davidson bike on the ferry, eaten a Ghirardelli chocolate bar, listened

to the band the “Eagles,” sent U.S. Postal Service express mail, or spent American money. For her Skagway program, Laura used memorable quotes, photos of Klondike gold rush women, and maps. Laura was also recognized by the crew of the M/V *Malaspina* for her fine work.

Laura Goff



Laura received a cash award from our partner organization, Alaska Geographic, and a certificate signed by Regional Forester Beth Pendleton and Acting Alaska Geographic Executive Director Lisa Oakley.

Congratulations to both of these recipients and to the other fine interpreters and conservation educators who were nominated.

International Year of Forests Poster Series

By Wendy Zirngibl, Tongass Public Affairs Specialist

Throughout 2011, the many exciting events and programs on the Chugach and Tongass national forests, from bird festivals to family fishing days, will take on additional significance as part of International Year of Forests. The IYOF is a designation by the United Nations to call attention to the tremendous importance of healthy forests all over the world, and Alaska's two forests chose to collaborate and celebrate this distinction in a dynamic, unique way.

Working together, they realized the importance of giving this special year a more tangible presence—a vibrant look that would raise it above the realm of abstraction. Recruiting the creative energy of a design firm in Anchorage, they adopted a beautiful design that appears on four distinct posters that the Chugach and Tongass are releasing to the public one at a time, at roughly six-week intervals, during the year.

The poster series reflects both the primary IYOF theme for the Alaska Region—"More than a place to visit—it's where we live"—and the four sub-themes that also are unique to the region: Explore Your Backyard, Celebrate Your Heritage, Cherish Your Inheritance, and Find Your Inspiration. The central figure on each of the four posters embodies the theme that it represents: in order, a hiker, a Native Alaskan, a youngster with a fish, and a man peering through binoculars. Each poster carries also its own smaller design elements, such as a kayaker, an ulu, a campfire, and a mountain peak, that depict life on Alaska's national forests. Finally, just below the central figure on each poster is the UN International Year of Forests logo—a tree comprised of many of the things that constitute a healthy forest: plants, animals, medicine, food, people, and homes.

In March, the Chugach and Tongass publicly released the first poster, Explore Your Backyard, and stocked all Forest Service offices with copies to distribute, free, to members of the public. The second, Celebrate Your Heritage, is scheduled for release the week of Earth Day, while Cherish Your Inheritance will go public in early June, in anticipation of family fishing days and



the many other children's events taking place during the month. Anchoring the series in mid-July, Find Your Inspiration will be the final design offered to the public, and, like the others, will be made available for distribution at all FS offices at the time of its release. While anyone is welcome to these posters, smaller versions that are more suitable for display in individual offices were also produced with Tongass and Chugach employees in mind.

Look for these posters, as well as similar IYOF banners, at Tongass and Chugach events and in communities and Forest Service offices throughout Alaska. By making the posters highly visible and widely available, we will strengthen their impact and lasting power, ensuring that the designs—and the messages that they convey—will continue to enjoy a presence in Alaska long after 2011 has passed.

Sheila Jacobson Wins 2010 Director's Award

By Wayne Owen, Director WFEWS, with Greg Killinger, Staff Officer, Tongass National Forest

Sheila Jacobson began her Forest Service career back in the late 1980s, arriving in Sitka as a Fisheries volunteer for the Sitka Ranger District. She has held a number of positions in the Alaska Region since then, including Biological Technician, Sitka District Fisheries Biologist, Craig District Wildlife/Fisheries/Ecology/Watershed/Subsistence program manager (2003-2009), and her current job as a Fisheries Biologist for the Tongass National Forest.

Jacobson has a rare combination of abilities and social skills that make her equally at home and effective in formal meetings with high level agency officials, meetings with local community members and partners, or on-the-ground knee deep in a creek.

Jacobson cut her teeth in restoration earlier in her career, being a key part of the district team that implemented one of the first watershed scale restoration projects on the Tongass back in the 1990s at Starrigavan Creek near Sitka. This multi-year project included road stabilization, riparian and upland thinning, in-stream large wood work, and recreational/OHV trail development, with over \$100,000 in partnership contributions from a local OHV club and a sizeable National Forest Foundation grant. This project won the 1998 AFS-Western Division's Riparian Management Award.

Subsequently, Jacobson has been the primary leader and a consistent presence in developing and completing the Harris River Watershed Restoration project on Prince of Wales Island, a broad-based partnership of local, state, federal, private and NGO organizations. This monumental effort has been in the works for more than seven years and will be

completed in September 2011. This watershed scale project includes more than 10 miles of main channel and tributary stream restoration, 8 miles of road storage and additional landslide stabilization, 350 acres of riparian habitat thinning treatments, 133 acres of upland young growth treatment and extensive trail and recreation enhancements.

Jacobson's experience, skill and integrity make her a cornerstone that all resource areas rely on when they need the best possible support to ensure success of the forest's highest priority work. She consistently shows a willingness to go the extra mile to provide assistance to others, whether on a special task force or working with the local community watershed council. She can be counted on to finish whatever she starts, while maintaining a sense of humor, and eye on the greater good.

Sheila Jacobson sets the standard



Sheila Jacobson

for professional accomplishment in her field of work, for the Alaska Region, and the Forest Service. For these reasons, it is my pleasure to present her with the 2010 WFEWS Director's Award.



Mike McClellan, Gary Lawton, Richard Woodsmith, and Sheila Jacobson work on the Commercial Thin Study at Harris River watershed on Prince of Wales Island.

Quiz: From the Archives

By Teresa Haugh, Editor



Left to right: Mike Barton, Deputy Regional Forester, Keene Kohrt, Wrangell District Ranger, and Max Peterson, Chief of the Forest Service

Congratulations to everyone who correctly identified the Forest Service employees in the photo above. Based on the number of answers I received, it appears that the puzzle was too easy!

From left to right, these men are Mike Barton, Deputy Regional Forester, Keene Kohrt, Wrangell District Ranger, and Max Peterson, Chief of the Forest Service.

Kudos go to Cal Casipit for being the first to come up with all the names, and to Steve Kessler for being the first to identify Mike Barton as deputy regional forester in 1981, and not regional forester, as he would later become.

Thanks for sharing some context for the occasion, also. I learned that the photo was taken on a trip up the Stikine River as part of a review of the Stikine Wilderness. An anonymous tipster said that “a lot of poker was played and whiskey consumed on this trip—all after hours, of course.” The image evoked thoughts of Forest Service days gone by and the many stories I have collected from retirees since the Forest Service Centennial in 2005—cherished reminiscences of living and working in the Last Frontier.

Keene Kohrt was surprised to see himself as a *SourDough Notes* “archive.” Dennis Reed said, “They look so young!” Dave Rittenhouse said, “Nice hats!” Skeeter Werner, who is a retired PNW research entomologist, also talked about the photo of Lassie that was published in the last issue of *SourDough Notes*, saying:

By the way, the houseboat shown in the 1968 archives photo is Wanigan 14. I helped build this wanigan in 1961-62 as a research vessel. Al Fagerstrom, carpenter from the Chatham Ranger District was the lead carpenter. I then lived on the wanigan and did research on the black-headed budworm, first in Karta Bay (Prince of Wales Island) in 1962, and then in Limestone Inlet (south of Juneau) in 1963-64.

Also, I am appreciative to retired Deputy Chief Tom Thompson for reminding us that his wife’s name is Kitty. We apologize for the error in the last issue.

Here is the complete list of all those who took the challenge:

Rai Behnert	Steve Kessler	Gerry Schauwecker
Jack Blackwell	Keene Kohrt	John Sandor
Paul Brewster	Paul McIntosh	John Sherrod
Cal Casipit	Jon Martin	Linda Slaght
Gerald Clark	Wayne Nicolls	Tommy Thompson
Mary Clemens	David Rak	Bill Tremblay
Karen Dillman	John Raynor	Barry Web
Pamela Finney	Dennis Reed	Jim Webb
Dan Haase	Dave Rittenhouse	Skeeter Werner
Henry Hayes	Ted Sandhofer	

For the next quiz, let’s go back a few years to 1944. See if you can identify these gentlemen.



Email taugh@fs.fed.us, or send a note to:

U.S. Forest Service
Public Affairs Office
P. O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802

Governor Recognizes Good Neighbor Volunteers

By Robert Goetz, I-Web Coordinator, Regional Office

Many of our employees volunteer significant amounts of their personal time to numerous charitable and community oriented organizations. One of these organizations is the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), a non-profit corporation serving numerous communities across the State of Alaska. Squadrons located in the communities of Anchorage, Seward, Valdez, Sitka, Juneau, and Craig directly serve the Chugach and Tongass national forests.

On November 26, 2010, Governor Sean Parnell issued an Executive Proclamation, which established November 28 to December 4, 2010 as “Civil Air Patrol Week” in the State of Alaska. He further proclaimed that “the efforts and dedication of the volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol is vital to our homeland security, to our state, and to our nation. We are grateful for their service and patriotism.”

The Civil Air Patrol was established by a special Act of Congress December 1, 1941. Its purpose was to supplement the U.S. military force in the fight for victory in World War II. Most aircraft were privately owned. Reminiscent of their revolutionary war counterparts, they were called the “Flying Minutemen.”

During WWII, 90 CAP aircraft were lost, and some 59 CAP pilots were killed, 26 of them lost at sea. CAP flew 24 million over-water miles, spotted 173 subs, attacked 57, damaged 17 and sank one, possibly two. German Admiral Doenitz was said to have admitted, “It was those damned little red and yellow airplanes!” Even with factory paint jobs, those little private planes (and their volunteer pilots) made a name for themselves—CAP Coastal Patrol—that resonated all the way back to Berlin.

Today the Civil Air Patrol flies the world’s largest fleet of modern Cessna aircraft, whose high-wing design makes them desirable for search operations. Still included in the 530-plane fleet owned by the CAP Corporation are specialized aircraft such as nine former Air Force U-6 (L-20) De Havilland Beaver bush planes restored and flown by the Alaska Wing. One of these aircraft is assigned to the Juneau Composite Squadron.

The Alaska Wing of the Civil Air Patrol was created in 1948, and serves many remote communities which are only accessible by air. Its three primary missions of Emergency Services, Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education involve some 759 senior members and 224 cadet members. Currently, 12 National Forest employees and retirees, along with many of their family members, from the communities of Juneau, Douglas, Anchorage, Ketchikan, and Craig/Klawock on Prince of Wales are active volunteers.

Juneau and Sitka are each home to Composite Squadrons, which include both cadet and senior members. They also have aircraft and aircrews trained in emergency services, and work closely with the US Coast Guard, Alaska State Troopers, SEADOGS, and other SAR partners. CAP aircraft and personnel are also mobilized for natural disasters, civil defense, and to aid local government emergency services when requested. CAP also flies in support of federal

agencies, including their efforts in the war on drugs. Our Regional Law Enforcement program has used CAP aircraft and aircrews as a resource in the past as well.

The communities of Craig/Klawock are home to the Prince of Wales Cadet Squadron. Two of their members are Tongass employees. This structured program provides exceptional educational and growth opportunities in aviation education, leadership development and good citizenship.



Employee Volunteers

- Boyce Bingham, RO-AM
- Gordon Brooks, Ketchikan RD
- Jeffrey DeFrest, Ketchikan RD
- Martha DeFrest, RO-ENG
- Robert Goetz, RO-IM
- Carol Huber, Retired
- Gary Lawton, Craig RD
- Daniel Logan, RO-SH
- Robert MacDonald, RO-ENG
- Martin Myers, Retired
- Kenneth Nestler, Retired
- Jeff Reeves, Craig RD

Southeast Composite Squadron

Juneau—40 active adult members

Baranof Composite Squadron

Sitka—21 active adult members

Prince of Wales Cadet Squadron

Craig—8 active adult members

2010 Individual Cash Awards

Chugach National Forest

Joshua Anderson	Eileen M. Eavis	Eric O. Koontz	Lezlie Murray	Carolyn Seramur
Dudley M. Babb	Nicole Edeluchel	Karen Kromrey	Brian J. Neilson	Shannon Smith
Rosemary Barnes	Susan Farzan	Deyna A. Kuntzsch	Jacob J. Nelsen	Spencer Smith
Robert Behrends	Jeremiah Felsen	Jesse A. Labenski	Michael Novy	Robert Spangler
Patricia Bening	Melvin D. Flynn	John S. Lang	Nancy O'Brien (2)	Mona Spargo
Mary Ann Benoit	Heather E. Gott (2)	Stephanie Latimer (2)	Brandon O'Bryan	David Spencer
Teresa Benson (2)	Sally J. Gregory (2)	Kevin S. Laves	David Eli Pearson	Debra D. Srb (2)
Elizabeth Brann	Troy A. Hagan	Mildred A. Lindall	Aaron J. Poe	Graham Stark
William Brennan	Cynthia Hale	Charles Lindemuth	Karin Preston	Christopher R. Stinson
Milo Burcham	Heather C. Hall	David A. Lockwood	Louis Ray Prill	Sara Ann Stoltz
Joelle N. Chille	Debra K. Hallek (5)	William MacFarlane	Nicholas Racine (2)	Daniel Svoboda
Marcus W. Chin	Ryan Ramsey Hammel	Teresa Marceron	Sharon Randall (4)	Pamela L. Tanora
Clayton Choromanski	Annette M. Heckart	Vanessa MacLeod	Alison M. Rein (2)	Kathleen Toth Stauble
Paul D. Clark	Ryan Holt	Kay Ann McCoy	Hope Roenfan	Melanie N. Trumbo
Erin E. Cooper	Ashely T. Hovis	Joe L. Meade	Susan Rutherford	Tara A. Turner
Peggy Cossaboom	Wesley W. Howell	Amanda Mico	David Sanders	Katherine Van Massenhove (2)
Dylan Fowler Crabtree	Michael W. Johnson	Dan Mico	Jeff W. Schlee	Kathleen Walker Smith (2)
Adam C. Cross	David S. Jordan	Joshua Milligan (2)	Andrew J. Schmidt (2)	Karen Weidenbaugh (2)
Ruth L. D'Amico (2)	Timothy L. Joyce (2)	Roy B. Mitchell (3)	Jaime T. Schmidt	Bette E. Welch (2)
Robert Max Dean	Kim E. Kiml	Katherine R. Mohatt	Robert G. Scribner	Tanya L. Zastrow
Edward Decastro	Kent Kohlhas (2)	Travis G. Moseley	Peggy L. Sears	Steven V. Zemke
Robert DeVelice (2)	Bobbie Jo Kolodziejki	Denise M. Murphy (2)		

Tongass National Forest

Eric B. Abele	Risa J. Carlson (2)	Ronnie L. Duncan	Katrina D. Hill	Brian D. Logan (2)
Richard M. Abt	Jeffery C. Carpenter	Lawrence Dunham (2)	Lisa Michelle Hirsch	Barbara J. Lydon
Erin Andresen	Jim E. Case	Marlene Duvall	Chad Hood	Timothy F. Lydon
Peter J. Antico	Matthew Catterson (2)	James P. Edwards	Kevin Hood	Larine MacDonald
John T. Autrey (2)	Nathaniel Catterson	Andrew M. Elliasen	Victoria Houser (2)	Sean Gordon Maiers
Jennifer L. Bakken	Sherril L. Cessnun	Gina S. Esposito	Hal T. Hoversten	Lucy G. Maldonado
Christina Barajas (3)	Timothy Chittenden	Ross F. Evans	Ryan S. Howell	Robert P. Marek
Frank Barnes	Michael A. Clark	Dawson E. Fairbanks	Brad L. Hunter	Marti M. Marshall
Brian Barr	Forrest W. Cole	Corrine K. Ferguson	Hellen L. Jackson (2)	Timothy P. Marshall
James Bauers (2)	Angela Coleman	Jacqueline Foss (3)	Richard M. Jacobson	Darin E. Martens (2)
Martin J. Becker	Constance Copelan	Katrina E. Fraker	Sheila A. Jacobson	Jon R. Martin (2)
Russell D. Beers (2)	Ryan E. Cox	Donald Frank (2)	Richard D. Jennings	Ronald Marvin
John Beneke	Laurie Craig	Benjamin Freund	Susan G. Jennings	Brent E. Mason
Lee A. Benson (2)	Peter C. Cross (2)	Karisa L. Garner	Madonna J. Parks (2)	Sherman Mayle
Caroline Bergren	Nida D. Crumley	Casey W. Goldsmith	Samuel Karsunsky	Mark McCallum
Robert E. Berney	Diane Daniels (2)	Carol A. Goularte	Daniel F. Kelliher (2)	Erin E. McClenahan
Rosemary Berry	Jessica M. Davila	Richard P. Greene	James J. Kinsman	Daniel D. McMahan (2)
George J. Bisset (2)	Paul Dawson	Peter Griffin (3)	Andrew M. Kirby	Mary E. McMullin
Gabriele M. Bosch	Jacqueline DeMontigny	Robert Gubernick (2)	Bradley J. Kriekhaus	Nicole McMurren(3)
Kenton J. Bowers	Vittoria Deangelis	Tyler D. Gunn (2)	Patricia C. Krosse	Ronald Medel
Travis M. Bradshaw (2)	Glen R. Decker	Barth Hamberg (2)	Rodd A. Kubitza	Mark H. Melton
Sarah E. Brandy	Arthur L. Dee	Vaughn E. Hazel	Angelina Lammers	Mark Michlik
Gordon B. Brooks	Joseph M. DeGross	Shauna M. Hee	Dennis J. Landwehr	Robert J. Miller (2)
Chris A. Budke	Elise C. Desonier	John K. Henderson	Robert C. Larson	Robert Morgenthaler (2)
Craig D. Buehler	Kenneth Dinsmore	Kyle Z. Hert	Casey LaVoie	Brian David Mork
Maria C. Burke	Matthew Dorgan	Patrick G. Heuer	Gary R. Lawton	Patricia Moulton
Thomas A. Cady	Eric M. Dow	Mercedes A. Highley	Chad A. Leshuk	William Moulton (2)

Margaret Murphy	Michelle K. Putz	Adam J. Sanchez	William B. Steele	Nathan Vreeland
Steven K. Murphy	Logan Quinn	Theodore Sandhofer	Arlene K. Steffey	Benjamin Walker (2)
Brendan K. Naples	David J. Rak (2)	Christopher Savage (2)	James A. Steward	Elizabeth A. Walker
Kathryn Navarro	Paula N. Rak	Cynthia Schelin (2)	Russell A. Stewart	Carol Sietz Warmuth
John Neary	Kim A. Redmond (2)	Ronald Schmohl	Clayton Stokes	Cheryl A. Webb
Joel Erling Nelson	Jill D. Reeck	Peter Schneider	Charles Streuli	Randall K. Webb
Valorie Nelson (2)	Robert N. Reeck	James Schramek	Teresa Streuli	Suzanne Webb (2)
Kent Nicholson	Galen Q. Reed	Brian Schultz	Terry D. Suminski	Bridget L. Welch
Rebecca Nourse	Jeff A. Reeves	Mark Schultz	Leslie L. Swada	Ardell Wells
Kelly N. O'Soup	Michael R. Regan	Kenneth J. Seymore	Amy E. Taylor	David Wenner
Susan Oehlers	Rusty N. Reynolds	Dawne G. Sherman	Maeve L. Taylor	Kale F. Wetekamm
Jack K. Oien	William J. Richards (2)	Clark Simpson	Brian Thompson (3)	Marina Whitacre (2)
Paul Olson	Deborah K. Riggs	Melanie Slayton	Julianne Thompson	Annemarie White
Michele M. Parker	Frank W. Roberts	Raymond Slayton	Kristen Thweatt	Russel Wicka
Reid R. Parker	Peter M. Roginski	Jane L. Smith	Joan Tierney (2)	Cara Wigfield-Gorka
Renaker Parks, Jr. (3)	Katie E. Rooks	Madeleine L. Smith	Patrick Tierney	Arthur Williams
Jerry Patterson	Nicholas A. Roos	Quentin Peter Smith	Kim B. Toland	Arnold Williams
Timothy Paul	Christal R. Rose	Scott I. Snelson	William Tremblay	Gregg A. Wilson
Shirley Paulsen (2)	Seth E. Ross	Danielle Snyder	Harry J. Tullis	James F. Wilson
Steven J. Paustian	Rebecca Sakraida	Sheila R. Spores	Erin Uloth	Dianne Woodling
Brandy Prefontaine	Barbara Sams	Jason M. Stancil (2)	Paul Valcarce	Will T. Young (2)
Kurt Eric Prond	Sarah Samuelson	Alicia E. Stearns	Hans Von Rekowski	

Regional Office

Robin Airozo	Robert Francis	Steve Kessler	Ripley Marvin	Mark D. Riley
Susan Alexander (2)	Mary Friberg	Dana R. Kimbell	Susan Marvin	Mary L. Samato
Katherine Benning	Robert Goetz (2)	George King	Raymond Massey	Jaime Schmidt (2)
Roger D. Birk	Neil Hagadorn	Nina Knecht	Eugene Miller	Barbara Schrader
Winnie Blesh (4)	Kelly J. Hall (2)	Della Koelling (2)	Jeffrey Miller (2)	Robert Simmons
Elayne Boyce	Rebecca Havens (3)	Nicole Lantz	Ruth Monahan	Gary L. Sonnenberg
Joseph Calderwood	Dawn Heutte (2)	Gary Lehnhausen	Dominico Paguio (3)	Deborah Strickland
Eli Carlson	Mercedes Highley	Maria Lisowski	Lillian Petershoare	James Thomas (2)
Cheryl Carrothers	Randy Jaenicke	Nicholas Lisuzzo (2)	Loretta Pittman	Kenneth Vaughan (3)
Theodora Castillo (4)	Connie A. Johnson (2)	Daniel Logan	Kenneth Post (3)	Carol Voneida
Patricia Clabaugh	Erik Johnson	Charlette Malacas (2)	Paul Brewster	Martin Wild
Randy Coleman (3)	Jesse Douglas Jones	Gwendolyn Marcus (2)	Hailey Pusich	Dustin Wittwer
Robin Dale	Marie Kanan (2)	Donald Martin	Avadna Rickards	
Pamela Finney	Kristi Kantola			

2010 Quality Increases

Chugach National Forest

Dustin Wittwer	Annette Heckart	Karen Kromrey	Nancy S. O'Brien	Jaime Schmidt
Sara Boario	Timothy Joyce	Deyna Kuntzsch	Hope Roenfanz	Mona Spargo
John H. Eavis	Bobby Jo Kolodziejewski			

Tongass National Forest

Michael Abrams	Faith Duncan	Brian D. Logan	Patricia O'Connor	Barbara Ann Stanley
Jason Anderson	James Edwards	Virginia Lutz	Jack K. Oien	Terry D. Suminski
James Baichtal	Corrine Kim Ferguson	Karen Maher	Michelle K. Putz	Hans J. Von Rekowski
Martin J. Becker	Patrick Heuer	Robert J. Miller	Julie A. Simpson	Carol Seitz Warmuth
Angela Coleman	Gregory Killinger	Kent Nicholson	Melanie Slayton	

Regional Office

Susan Alexander	Joseph Calderwood	Debra K. Hallek	Stephen Patterson	Michael Wilcox
Anne Bergstrom	Robin E. Dale	Macky A. McClung	Marc R. Ramonda	

Length of Service Awards

5	20
<p>Heather Mist Abad Erin A. Andresen Elayne A. Boyce Sarah E. Brandy Travis M. Bradshaw Courtney E. Brown Laurie Craig Peter C. Cross Antonio C. Fiorino Daniel Flickinger Jonathan M. Hyde Phillip W. Ingersoll</p>	<p>Danial N. Keeler Jeannie R. Kirkland Victoria Kohn Johanna Kovarik Noah O. Lloyd Jennifer MacDonald Sheri S. Nicholson Becki Saari Sarah Samuelson Robert Scribner Quentin P. Smith Elizabeth A. Walker</p>
10	25
<p>Barbara Adams Jason Aigeldinger Jason E. Bew Christy D. Bullard Richard S. Burke Melissa N. Cady Thomas A. Cady Carin Christensen Adam C. Cross Matthew R. Durfey Corrine Ferguson Mary A. Friberg Michelle M. Gossett Heather C. Hall Teresa Haugh</p>	<p>Chad Hood Susan B. Jenkins Jeremy M. Karchut Daniel M. Logan Karen A. Maher Timothy Paul Marc R. Ramonda Peter Roginski Nathan Stearns Arlene Steffey Maeve L. Taylor Charles P. Thynes Benjamin Walker Russel Wick</p>
15	30
<p>Ellen Anderson Benjamin R. Case Glenn E. Cross Myra L. Gilliam Gregory Hayward Annette Heckart Lisa Hirsch Stephen F. Hmurciak Randy Jaenicke</p>	<p>Eric Johnson James Kinsman Scott McDonald Paul D. Olson Sandra Powers Julie A. Simpson Gary L. Sonnenberg David Zastrow</p>
	35
	<p>Katherine Benning Jeffrey C. Carpenter Diane Daniels Jeffrey DeFreest Troy A. Hagan Sheila Jacobson Larry Langert Paul M. Larkin John E. Lundquist Nicole McMurren</p>
	25
	<p>James M. Beard George J. Bisset Kenton J. Bowers Rick S. Griffen Gregory Killinger</p>
	30
	<p>Robin L. Airozo Kenneth G. Anderson Jeannie M. Blackmore Winnie C. Blesh Calvin H. Casipit Timothy Chittenden Robert J. Dalrymple Sally J. Gregory Brad L. Hunter Kristi Kantola John P. Krosse Vanessa Alao MacLeod</p>
	35
	<p>Russell D. Beers Leslie F. Glenn David P. Harris, III Frances Martin Ronald Marvin</p>
	20
	<p>Roy Mitchell Robert Morgenthaler Renaker D. Parks, Jr. Mark J. Pempek Mary L. Samato Mark Schultz Robert E. Spangler Kathleen Toth Stauble Carol Voneida</p>
	25
	<p>Karen L. Kromrey Sandra L. Russell Jaime T. Schmidt Diane L. Woodling</p>
	30
	<p>Ruth M. Monahan Jill D. Reeck Michael R. Regan Charles Ressler Susan Rutherford Cynthia E. Sever Barbara A. Stanley Robert A. Stovall Charles D. Streuli Deborah Strickland William Tremblay</p>
	35
	<p>Jack K. Oien Karin E. Preston Deborah Riggs John Stevens Robert Vermillion</p>

Individual Time Off Awards

Chugach National Forest

Peggy Sears

Tongass National Forest

Erin Andresen
Frank L. Barnes

Jim E. Case
Constance Copelan

Ryan E. Cox
Patricia Droz

Ross F. Evans
Hellen L. Jackson

James J. Kinsman

Group Time Off Awards

Chugach

Jason Aigeldinger	Eileen M. Eavis	Kim E. Kiml	Roy B. Mitchell	Jaime Schmidt
Rosemary Barnes	John H. Eavis	Amy M. Klein	Andrew Morse	Randall Schran
Robert Behrends	Nicole Eduluchel	Susan D. Kohler	Travis Moseley	Peggy L. Sears
Patricia Bening	Susan E. Farzan	Kent E. Kohlhasse	Denise Murphy	Carl Skustad
Mary Ann Benoit	Michael E. Fitzpatrick	Bobbi Jo Kolodziejcki	Matthew Murphy	Paula J. Smith
Teresa Benson	Melvin D. Flynn	Karen L. Kromrey	Lezlie Murray	Dana F. Smyke
Sara Boario	Jason G. Fode	Mark T. Kromrey	Brian J. Neilson	Robert Spangler
Elizabeth Brann	Heather E. Gott	Deyna A. Kuntzsch	Sherry D. Nelson	Mona Spargo
Martin P. Bray	Thomas L. Gray	Stephanie Latimer	Michael Novy	Debra D. Srb
Courtney Brown	Randall R. Greene	Kevin S. Laves	Nancy O'Brien	Sean W. Stash
Milo Burcham	Samantha Greenwood	Mildred Lindall	Karen O'Leary	Robert Stovall
Todd M. Camm	Sally J. Gregory	Charles Lindemuth	Patrick O'Leary	Daniel J. Svoboda
Bruce Campbell	Troy A. Hagan	Irene Lindquist	Daniel Osborn	Rebecca Talbott
Betty Charnon	Cynthia A. Hale	David Lockwood	Teresa Paquet	Kathleen Toth Stauble
Timothy Charnon	Heather C. Hall	Nicole Longfellow	Aaron J. Poe	Jennifer Trudeau
Marcus W. Chin	Debra K. Hallek	William MacFarlane	Karin Preston	Jon Van Massenhove
Paul D. Clark	William R. Harris	Carl C. Madson	Nicholas Racine	K. Van Massehove
Robert P. Cook	Annette Heckart	John L. McBride	Sharon Randall	Robert L. Venable
Erin Cooper	Stephen Hmurciak	Kay Ann McCoy	Alison Mary Rein	Kathleen Walker
Adam C. Cross	James K. Hodges	Alexander McLain	Hope Roenfanz	Smith
Ruth L. D'Amico	Steven Hohensee	Vanessa MacLeod	Susan Rutherford	Karen Weidenbaugh
Robert Max Dean	Michael W. Johnson	Sean T. Meade	David Sanders	Bette Welch
Robert DeVelice	Timothy L. Joyce	Amanda Mico	Merlyn Schelske	David Zastrow
Benjamin Dreier	Danial N. Keeler	Dan M. Mico	Jeff W. Schlee	Tanya Zastrow
Christene Dunlap	Linda Kelley	Joshua Milligan	Andrew Schmidt	Steven Zemke

Regional Office

Steven Kessler Eric Ouderkirk

Group Cash Awards

Tongass

John Autrey	Nida D. Crumley	Angelina Lammers	Patricia O'Connor	Christal Ray Rose
Gabriele Bosch	Karen Iwamoto			

Regional Office

Susan Alexander Michael Goldstein Teresa Haugh Carol Voneida

Travel Savings Incentives

Chugach National Forest

Nicole Eduluchel Kathleen Toth Stauble Jennifer Trudeau (2) Loretta Winton

Tongass National Forest

Michael Dilger Kenneth Dinsmore Robert Gubernick (2) Stephen Lombard Nancy Soriano

Regional Office

Marie Messing Kerri Mills (2)

2010 Regional Forester Awards

Regional Forester Beth Pendleton recently announced the winners of the **2010 Regional Forester Awards**. These annual awards recognize Forest Service employees, teams, and partners who have done outstanding work in the previous year. Pendleton said it was difficult to choose from the excellent nominations that were received in the various categories, and she thanked everyone who participated in the process.

Hector Gandara Memorial Award ⌘ **David G. Sanders**

(Wilderness Ranger and Program Leader, Glacier Ranger District) for his advocacy of civil rights for all, his facilitation of special emphasis programs including Challenge Alaska, and his commitment to cultural diversity in the workplace.

Employee of the Year Award ⌘ **Diane Daniels**

(Support Services Specialist) for her outstanding performance in the business management of the Ketchikan Misty Fiords Ranger District and coordination of the Ketchikan Resource Advisory Council.

Resource Stewardship Award ⌘ **Rob DeVelice**

(Forest Ecologist) in recognition for his stewardship of vegetation resources, dedication to the mission of the Chugach National Forest and the Alaska Region, innovative use of technology, extraordinary community and interagency engagement, and boundless enthusiasm.

Meeting America's Needs Award ⌘ **Cal Casipit**

(Regional Subsistence Biologist) for a decade of supporting sustainable fisheries and rural Alaskan communities through exemplary service in the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

Sustainable Recreation Award ⌘ **Bobbie Jo Kolodziejski**

(Recreation Planner, Chugach National Forest) for her outstanding efforts in championing collaborative efforts among the federal and state agencies and stakeholders to provide effective and consistent management of the Russian and Kenai Rivers confluence area.

Excellence in Customer Service Award ⌘ **Dana Smyke**

(Facilities Manager, Cordova Ranger District) for his exceptional contributions to his local community and the Forest Service community where he leads by example in service, dedication, commitment and effort.

Partnership Award ⌘ **Anchorage Park Foundation, Municipality of Anchorage, State & Private Forestry, and Chugach National Forest**

in recognition of their outstanding contributions in engaging youth, families and communities in outdoor experiences and natural resource stewardship through the Youth Employment in Parks Program and National Get Outdoors Day celebrations. Team members from Anchorage Park Foundation: Beth Norlund, and Kelly Meeker. From Anchorage Parks and Recreation: Amy O'Connor, Scott Stringer, Holly Spoth-Torres, and Chris Conlon. From State & Private Forestry: Steve Patterson, Asst. Director Forest Health Protection and John Lundquist, Supervisory Entomologist. From the Chugach National Forest: Sara Boario, Public Affairs and Partnerships Staff Officer; Annette Heckart, NICE Program Leader and Charles Lindemuth, Visual Information Specialist.

Safety and Health Award ⌘ **Wrangell Ranger District**

for their efforts to advance the goals of the Alaska Region's Safety and Health Program in promoting safe and healthy work environments, practices and procedures. Bob Dalrymple is the District Ranger. Employees include: Erin Andresen, Keith Appleman, Doug Ault, Sarah Bullock, Maria Burke, David Butler, Joe Delabrué, Jackie De Montigny, Matt Durfey, Jen Elliott, Dan Flickinger, Dee Galla, Christy Gardner, Tyler Gunn, Jason Johnson, Bob Lippert, Steve Murphy, Lynda Nore, Austin O'Brien, Diane O'Brien, Jeremy Padilla, Mark Pempek, David Rak, Dennis Reed, Greg Roberts, Ron Schmohl, Britta Schroeder, Frank Sheppard, Alicia Stearns and Nate Stearns.

Excellence in Business Operations Award ⌘ **Alaska Regional Partnership and Agreements Training Team**

for their exceptional contributions in developing and implementing the Alaska Region's Partnerships and Agreements classroom and webinar training sessions. Team members include Jeff Miller, Regional Partnership, Outreach, & Business Developer; Mechele MacDonald, Supervisory Agreements Specialist; Mary E. Nelson, Tongass Partnership Coordinator; Aaron Poe, Chugach Partnership Coordinator; Elizabeth Carroll, Grant Strategists Enterprise Unit and Gabriel Lopez-Bernal, VOLPE Section.