

April 2011

Salmon - Challis National Forest

# Currents



Volume 1, Issue 1

## Forest Celebrates All Employee Day

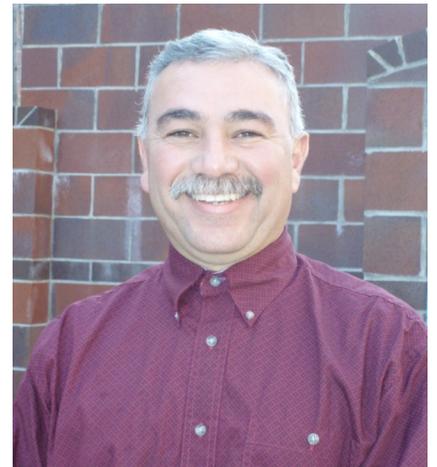
Forest Supervisor Frank Guzman started off Salmon-Challis National Forest All Employee Celebration Day at the Sacajawea Center in Salmon by saying he was pleased to finally have the celebrations after having to postpone the meeting earlier in January because of bad weather. Rescheduling the meeting was hampered by budget concerns and all the work that needs to be done. "I don't want what is urgent to get in the way of what is important," Frank said. Over 100 Forest Service employees attended the event April 7 - 8.

Guzman comes from a long line of risk takers. His grandfather moved his family to southern California from Mexico in 1911, and in 1980 his father pulled up stakes and moved his family to Modoc County to a 20 acre farm with a house with no run-

ning water. "I'm not averse to pushing the envelope," he said, "but sometimes I have to buffer my risk-taking persona."

Frank noted that it now is a tough time to be a government worker; it can be kind of lonely and there are concerns with budget cuts and furlough. He also said he appreciated everyone attending the meeting (over 100 people) and their dedication to their work.

Thursday's activities included an ice breaker, award presentations, and a huge potluck lunch. The afternoon was filled with teambuilding activities, voting on issues, a presentation by the Forest Green Team, and a forest trivia quiz. At the end of the day Frank led a discussion of the two highest priority issues concerning communications between the Forest



**"I don't want what is urgent to get in the way of what is important."**

Leadership Team and the employees. Employees volunteered to serve on ad hoc committees looking into ways to address the issues. (see page 2)

## Welcome to Currents

*Editor's note:* Welcome to the first edition of *CURRENTS*, the internal newsletter for the people of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The newsletter will focus on what we are doing to care for the land and serve the people who use and enjoy the forest, special projects, who's working where, awards, our priorities, our stewardships, volunteer efforts, fun things happening, questions and answers, EAs we've completed, and little bits of what's going on.

Currents will be published roughly every other month (with possible interruptions for fire season or other emergencies). The newsletter will usually be two pages, so articles will need to be short and to the point. This first issue is four pages because we focused on the All-Employee Celebration and recent awards, and there was a lot of information to get out. *Kent Fuellenbach*

## Guest Speaker Kathy McAllister Set the Tone on Friday



Kathy McAllister and Kim Nelson chat during a break. Ice breakers, teambuilding and breaks gave everyone opportunities to renew old friendships and meet new Forest Service friends.

Friday's guest speaker Kathy McAllister, retired Deputy Regional Forester, R1, remarked that she loved her career with the Forest Service. "I

got to live in beautiful places all over the country, and where else would I have learned to drive a pickup truck with a stick shift on steep, winding mountain roads?"

She gave these words of advice:

- Remember, we all work for someone.
- Make decisions - work on what you can control.
- Budgets are never big enough and are never sorted out soon enough.
- Speak in plain language.
- Give praise - it's free.
- Use face-to-face communications

whenever you can.

- Value our differences.
- Apologize.

Following Kathy's talk, Gail Baer of the Green Team, explained the latest changes in the recycling programs at offices through out the forest.

Each district gave a photo presentation or had a display of their district's natural beauty and resources and the vibrant, dedicated people who care for and manage them. The presentations included two "original" songs that are destined to be remembered on the districts for years, "I Wanna Chomp Your Land" by Eric Pfeifer and the Pine Beetles, and "I Love This Job" sung by Josh Edwards and Bart Gammet.

## Supervisor and Ranger Present Awards

Frank Guzman presented special awards to three Forest people whose quick action on first aid training helped save people's lives.

**Karl Stocker** was the first person to give aid to a woman who was in a car accident. He stabilized the victim's air way and provided assistance until EMTs arrived at the scene. His quick action saved her life.

**Tony Ulvestad** and **Gary Bruce** discovered an injured elderly man who had slipped on ice and fallen between two parked vehicles late at night. He had broken his femur and was bleeding badly. They provided emergency first aid and called for assistance. Because of freezing conditions the man likely would have died had they not found him.

Chris Grove presented **Donna Leuzinger** with a Certificate of Appreciation for her teamwork with Sheri Hughes when the Recreation.gov river reservation program malfunctioned. Together they identified the problem, developed work-arounds, and called affected citizens to individually resolve reservation problems.

## Priority Issues

During the All Employee Day Celebration, attendees voted on a number of issues facing the work force on the Forest to determine the two most important issues. The following statements represent the two issues selected. Ad hoc committees of volunteers will meet during the year to develop solutions to the issues and report at next year's All Employee Day.

**Forest Service leadership establishes clear direction for the agency (Forest).**

Committee lead: Kimberly Nelson

Members: Barry Dopp, Crystal Loesch, Faith Ryan, Ken Rodgers, Concetta Brown, Betsy Rieffenberger, Piper Goessel, and Dan Bartel.

**Forest Service leadership communicates effectively and honestly with employees.**

Committee lead: Diane Weaver

Members: Gail Baer, Trish Callaghan, Melissa Sartor, Jody Wisner, Karryl Krieger, Lynn Bennett, and Jessica Dhaemers.

## Civil Right Action Team Awards

These awards were presented by the CRAT at Civil Rights Day February 9.

### Inspirational

CAROLYN DEAN For your infectious "service with a smile" approach to your work, your never failing work ethic and positive attitude is an inspiration to everyone.

KENNETH ROGERS For your commitment to the Salmon-Challis National Forest, its resources and people. Your dedication and positive attitude is an inspiration to us all.

### Morale

KATHRYN "PIPER" GOESSEL For your unwavering professionalism and good nature. The way you treat others and your positive attitude is uplifting to the morale of our workplace.

ELIZABETH "BETSY" RIEFFENBERGER For your professionalism in the way you treat the resource and all the people around you. Your positive attitude and good nature have improved the morale of all of us on the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

### Work environment

M. "PATTI" SCHWIND For your positive attitude and smile you bring to work each day. Your coworkers appreciate and enjoy your presence on the job and the contribution it makes to a better work environment.

MICHAEL HELM For your positive attitude and the professionalism you bring to work every day. Your coworkers appreciate and enjoy your presence on the job and the contribution it makes to a better work environment.

### Leadership

STEFANI MELVIN For your outstanding leadership, the support and encouragement you provide to your employees and all of us around are exemplary. Your exuberance and caring personality exemplify the true spirit and principles of Civil Rights.

KRIS MARTINSON For your outstanding leadership in promoting civil rights on your district and throughout the Salmon-Challis National Forest and its communities

## Forest Rivers Program Wins Excellence.Gov Award

The Salmon-Challis National Forest rivers program recently received a prestigious award from the American Council for Technology and Industry Advisory Council for developing an innovative new internet system that simplifies, saves money and provides greater customer service.

Last May river staff began to manage the permitting process electronically

at Boundary Creek, Indian Creek and Corn Creek, boat launch sites on the Middle Fork and main Salmon River. To supply power in such a remote location, the Forest installed glass solar panels to power the modems and computers providing internet connectivity. With the remote wireless system in place customers can apply for permits online knowing their information is accurate,

secure and protected. The permit information is available at the launch sites.

"Citizens who boated the Middle Fork paid for most of this project through recreation fees." *Chris Grove, District Ranger*

## Q & A

**Why is the Forest Leadership Team holding their May meeting at the remote Lantz Bar site on the Salmon River?**

Last year, in attempt to save money, we decided to have our team building/transition meeting at Indianola GS. None of the FLT members put in for field per diem, we just all contributed food, and camped out. We liked the idea of having our FLT meetings at different districts, and so we used Leadore, and Wildhorse GS last year as well. It afforded FLT members a chance to see parts of the districts that we normally wouldn't, and like I said it keeps costs down. This year we're going to Lantz Bar to see that part of the Forest, do some clean up while we're there, camp out, and conduct our FLT meeting.

The Salmon-Challis National Forest has shared administrative use of the historic Lantz Bar site with the Bitterroot National Forest for more than 20 years. The North Fork District uses the facilities as an integral part of the trails and river programs in the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness. *Frank Guzman.*

# Forest Fun Photos



Oops!



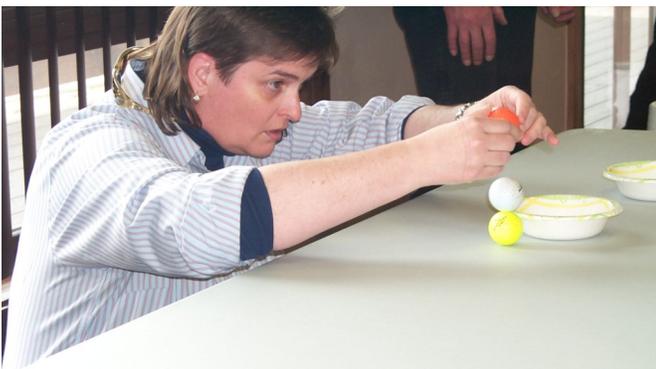
Instructions



A vertical crap shoot.



Moving noodles with macaroni takes concentration.



Stacking golf balls.



Leadership