



U.S. Forest Service Northern Region News

OCTOBER 14, 2011



[Northern Region celebrates the Forest Service's First Volunteer](#)

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[Secretary Vilsack: Combined Federal Campaign is Now Underway](#)



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[Rather Than War: Objectors Choose Smoke Jumping during WWII](#)



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Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center

Greets its One Millionth Visitor



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Secretary Vilsack: Final Report on Feds

Feed Families Food Drive



I am happy to share with you some good news, the final total of our 3rd Annual Feds Feed Families Food Drive. Now that all of the reports are in, I can share that we have shattered our goal. USDA's Feds Feed Families donation total is 1,791,393 pounds!

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An Evening of Forest Inspired Art



More than 50 people gathered at Flathead Valley Community College on Sept. 15, to celebrate a cooperative artist-in-residence program that connects talented Montana artists and our communities with local wild lands.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail

Coloring and Activity Book Available



A publication titled Along the Nez Perce Trail – A Coloring and Activity Book is available for sale at U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service offices and other retail outlets along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

NRN Archives

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Northern Region celebrates the Forest Service's First Volunteer

By Joni Packard

The Forest Service's first official volunteer under the Volunteers in National Forests Act of 1972, Gloria (Worf) Owen, was honored in a local ceremony at the Lolo National Forest's new pollinator garden at Fort Missoula on October 8, 2011.

Coinciding with Gloria's visit to Missoula for a family reunion, Regional Forester Leslie Weldon celebrated Gloria's work as volunteer camp cook, camp tender and trail crew member on the "Mary Mary" trail crew, Moose Creek Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest during the summer of 1972.

With family members and local community partners in attendance, Weldon shared her appreciation and presented Gloria with an embroidered Pendleton blanket and certificate honoring her role and service.

The ceremony also provided an opportunity for four volunteer partner organizations – Montana Conservation Corps, Back Country Horsemen of Montana (Missoula chapter), Tanglefree, and Friends of Upper Rock Creek Historic District, to participate in the celebration.



Weldon also acknowledged the vital role that Gloria's father, Bill Worf had played. Bill was the R1 Director of Recreation and Wilderness at the time.

"Bill Worf was one of those people before '72 who were staunch advocates for people's ability to volunteer with the Forest Service," said Weldon. "Any agency involved with conservation has a deep reliance on volunteers who understand and contribute because they believe in what they do."

There have been many "volunteers" since the beginning of the agency, from early ranger's wives to local individuals and groups who just gave a hand when needed. Some, like Penny Keck, who was the spouse of Forest Service employee Emil Keck, contributed thousands of "unofficial" hours to the agency, staffing fire lookouts and working on trails in the 1960s.

But until legislation was passed in the 1972, the agency could not legally accept the services of volunteers, reimburse for expenses, nor train, recognize or officially support people willing to give of their time. It was because of Penny and many others like her that the recognition was sparked that a legal authority was needed.

The Volunteers in National Forests Act of 1972 became the tool that has since lead to over 108 million hours of volunteer service and over 2.3 million participants providing volunteer services on the nation's national forests and grasslands.

For Gloria Owen, her volunteer experience on the Moose Creek Ranger District that summer was life changing. That summer's coworkers became new friends, and later they all traveled together to Colorado, where Gloria eventually met her future husband, and started a new life there. "This decision [to volunteer] totally changed the course of my life," stated Gloria. "Volunteering in many areas can change someone's outlook and be rewarding beyond means."

The Northern Region's celebration of Gloria as the agency's first official volunteer marks the first of many events nationwide celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Act, and the importance of volunteers to the Forest Service. The Region will also be hosting other recognition events throughout the year.

For more information, contact: Joni Packard, Regional Volunteer and Services Program Coordinator, (406) 329-3187, or jpackard@fs.fed.us

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Combined Federal Campaign Underway

From Secretary Tom Vilsack

The 2011 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is an opportunity for all of us to give back to the communities and causes we care about. This year, we are celebrating CFC's 50th anniversary, with the theme '50 Years of Caring, Serving, and Giving.'

I recently updated you on the amazing generosity USDA employees demonstrated with their contributions to the Feds Feed Families food drive, despite these difficult economic times. And I know that you all will continue in that spirit so that we help nonprofits making a real impact here at home and across the globe.



To speak with you directly about why CFC matters, I recorded [a video](#) explaining the opportunity we have to make meaningful changes for folks less fortunate than us.

I hope you'll take a moment to watch it and get a sense of how you can use CFC to give back.

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Rather Than War: The Role of Conscientious Objectors in Smoke Jumping during WWII

By Shandy Lemperlé, R1 archivist

When the idea of dropping people from planes to fight fires was first suggested in 1934, it was considered a “hare-brained scheme.”

Nevertheless, this idea was revisited in 1939 as a Forest Service experiment, with Glenn Smith and Francis Lufkin making the first practice jumps outside of Winthrop, WA, in Region 6.

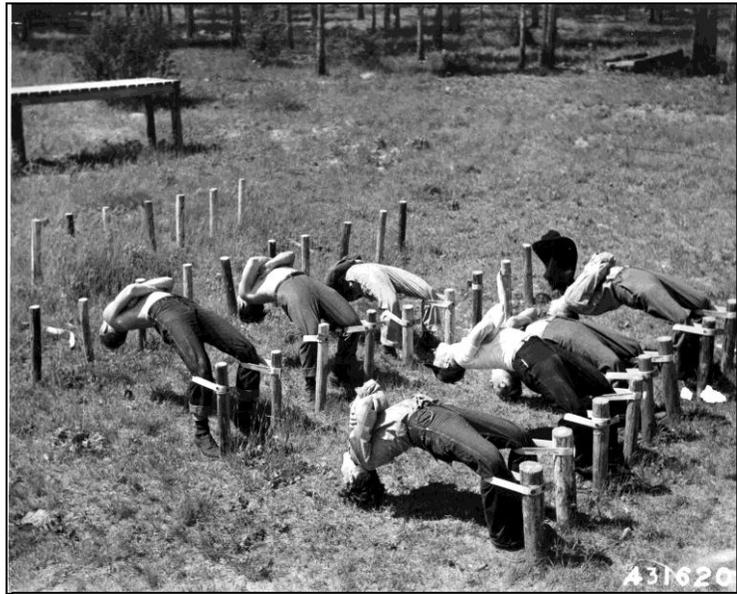
In 1940, permanent camps were set up in Winthrop and Ninemile, MT, and on

July 12, 1940, Rufus Robinson and Earl Cooley made the first fire jump on a fire in the Nez Perce National Forest.

Smoke jumping soon proved to be not only feasible, but also cost-effective. Already in the first years of the program, the Forest Service saved thousands of dollars by getting crews to wildland fires faster, which in turn often allowed them to contain the fires before they spread out of control.

By the early 1940s it was clear that the burgeoning smoke jumping program was a valuable asset to the Forest Service, but it almost immediately hit a road block. With the United States’ entry into World War II in 1941, the Forest Service experienced a significant loss in personnel. Earl Cooley, by then the project foreman, remarked, “Just when parachuting men into fires had proved practical, we were hit by shortages of men and equipment.” This shortage was filled by a seemingly unlikely source: with the help of the Civilian Public Service (CPS) program, which provided conscientious objectors to war a legal alternative to military service.

Conscientious objectors (COs) are opposed to war for religious and/or philosophical reasons. During World War II, most COs came from one of the three so-called Historic Peace Churches (Mennonite, Church of the Brethren and the Religious Society of Friends). COs interpret the commandment, “thou shalt not kill” literally, and prefer the way of peace. The Burke-Wadsworth Selective Service Act of 1940, which established the first peace-time draft in United States history, also contained a provision for COs, declaring that those who, “by reason of religious training and belief [are] conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form,” would instead participate in “work of national importance under



Smoke jumper training was very physically challenging. Photo by Phil Stanley, 1945, courtesy USFS Region One Archives.

civilian direction.” The Civilian Public Service program was established to provide and manage this work of national importance.

Phil Stanley, a CO from a Quaker church, first learned about the smoke jumping program while stationed at a CPS camp in Coleville, CA. When Stanley learned that the program was experiencing a shortage of personnel, he wrote to Alex Lindh, Director of Region One Fire Control, proposing that Lindh recruit smokejumpers from the CPS camps. Lindh responded positively to Stanley’s suggestion, and in 1943, 60 men were chosen from a pool of over 300 volunteers.

After reporting to the smokejumper camp in Ninemile, MT, these COs underwent intensive physical training and practice jumps.

As CO Phil Neal noted, “To be a good jumper, one needed inner peace.” Once they were fully trained they began jumping to fires and proved their worth putting them out, all while being paid a measly \$5 per month. The CPSers rarely complained, however, and continued to fight fires for the Forest Service until the camp was disbanded in April, 1946. Cooley reasoned that the returning GIs would have resented having COs as trainers and superiors and so the CPSers returned to their families and their lives from before the war.

Without the service of the COs, the Forest Service would have likely had to discontinue the smoke jumping program during the war years. During the COs’ years of service, smoke jumping evolved from an experiment to a full-fledged program that saved the agency thousands of dollars annually. It also provided the COs with a valuable experience that they carried with them for the rest of their lives.

Conscientious objector Luke Birkey said of his time as a CPS smokejumper, “I’d do it all again. I was convinced that the Jesus way of non-violence was right. My understanding of this was far too narrow and provincial or incomplete. But CPS became a time of evaluation and maturing as I lived closely with people of conviction but varied backgrounds and perspectives. It was a time to learn, to increase vision of what it meant to be a follower of the Prince of Peace and to be more socially responsible. My fellow CPSers helped enormously in this process and I’m profoundly grateful.”

Shandy Lemperlé is scheduled to give a lecture on the role of COs in the smoke jumping program on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 11:30 in room 263 of the Regional Office.



Photo by KD Swan, 1944. Courtesy USFS R1 Archives

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Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center Greet its One Millionth Visitor

The one millionth visitor to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center walked through out front doors and into the history of the center at 10:05 a.m. on August 20, 2011.

There were balloons, a substantial prize package, members from the community and media, and one incredibly stunned couple.

The winning couple was Karen and Alan Hoskins from Idaho Falls, Idaho. As long-time “Lewis and Clarkies,” the two take their vacation time every year to explore a part of the Lewis and Clark trail, and had been looking forward to coming to the Interpretive Center for many years.



While it was important to recognize the one millionth visitors, organizers believed it was also important to celebrate the start of the *next* million visitors to the center. The next couple to walk into the Interpretive Center that morning was John and Barbara Bailey from Devonport, Tasmania, and they became the “Million plus One” visitors.

This amazing couple had watched the Ken Burns film series on the Lewis and Clark Trail and had gotten hooked, as so many others have, on the story. They came here on their vacation to explore the trail and it was also their first time at the Interpretive Center!

To keep the spirit of celebration going, daily prizes were randomly given to visitors to the center throughout the entire month of August.

“This added a fun sense of anticipation and an air of celebration to the whole month,” Elizabeth Casselli, the director of the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. “Thanks to all for their contributions in prizes, time, and enthusiasm. Looking forward to celebrating the next million with all of you!”

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Final Report on Feds Feed Families Food Drive

From Secretary Tom Vilsack

I am happy to share with you some good news, the final total of our 3rd Annual Feds Feed Families Food Drive.

As you know, at the beginning of the summer we set a department-wide goal of contributing 500,000 pounds of food to the overall federal government goal of two million pounds. Now that all of the reports are in, I can share that we have shattered our goal.



USDA's Feds Feed Families donation total is 1,791,393 pounds!

This is a testament to the dedication of USDA employees around the country who rose to the challenge to help feed our hungry neighbors this summer. Many people in our country are having a hard time making ends meet. USDA's nutrition assistance programs help one in four Americans put food on the table. And with our food drive efforts, we have helped many more.

I have been hearing wonderful stories from the field about your efforts. How you collected food through non-perishable food drives, our many People's Gardens, community events, and gleaning efforts with farmers and producers. We look forward to sharing more of these stories on our USDA blog. And as soon as they're ready, we'll also be sharing state-by-state and mission area collection totals, as well as the names of those who made it into the OPM (Office of Personnel Management) Hall of Fame for going above and beyond.

I want to extend a special thanks to all of the Food Drive coordinators who put in an extra special effort this summer. USDA had more than 2,000 food drives coordinated at our field and headquarters offices. These drives supported local food banks, pantries, and emergency shelters in communities small and large all around the country. And while the Feds Feed Families food drive has ended for the summer, I hope you'll continue the relationships you have developed and the sense of purpose in serving others that you built.

You should be proud of your efforts this summer. I certainly am. Thank you for all that you have done and all that you continue to do to help the American people in these difficult times.

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Illegal Marijuana Grow Site Discovered in the Northern Region

By Brandan Schulze

Law enforcement officers from the U.S. Forest Service and Mineral County Sheriff's Office recently completed an eradication operation of a marijuana growing site discovered in Montana.

The joint operation on Sept. 13, 2011, involved U.S. Forest Service law enforcement, the Mineral County Sheriff's Office, the Northwest Montana Drug Task Force, Drug Enforcement Administration and the Montana Army National Guard.



The illegal grow site was found on the Superior District of the Lolo National Forest. Approximately 3,000 marijuana plants were discovered at the site, with a street value estimated at \$8 million. Crews removed the marijuana plants and dismantled and removed an extensive drip irrigation system.

After the investigation was initiated by the Mineral County Sheriff, the operation was confirmed during helicopter reconnaissance of the area with the Northwest Montana Drug Task Force. No suspects were observed at the site when it was discovered and officers believe the area has been abandoned. The U.S. Forest Service and Mineral County Sheriff are asking the public to report any suspicious activity they have seen in the county and to report it to local authorities or US Forest Service Law Enforcement.

“Grow operations continue to be uncovered on National Forests throughout the United States. This problem has officially arrived in Montana,” said U.S. Forest Service Special Agent in Charge Jonathan Herrick.

Herrick says a multi-agency approach and the use of drug task forces is critical to eradicating illegal drug activities occurring within the state. The Forest Service will continue to partner through increased information sharing, leveraging resources, and conducting joint operations.

Because of the significant threat to public, employee and law enforcement safety, coupled with the tremendous resource damage to the environment, aggressively dealing with Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) operations has become a priority for Forest Service law enforcement. The overall objective is to provide safe federal public lands and a healthy environment to enjoy now and in the future, free from the dangers of illegal drug production.

“The safety of forest visitors and our employees is our top priority,” said Lolo National Forest Supervisor Debbie Austin. “With hunting season underway, it’s important for hunters to be acutely aware of their surroundings and recognize the signs of marijuana grow site.”

Some of these clues are:

- Sometimes marijuana smells like a skunk on hot days.

- Hoses or drip lines located in unusual or unexpected places.
- A well-used trail where there shouldn't be one.
- People standing along roads without vehicles present, or in areas where loitering appears unusual.
- Grow sites are usually found in isolated locations, in rough, steep terrain.
- Camps containing cooking and sleeping areas with food, fertilizer, weapons, garbage, and rat poison.
- Small propane bottles (used to avoid the detection of wood smoke).

While illegal marijuana cultivation poses a public safety risk, it also directly harms the environment. The illegal use of pesticides can cause extensive long-term damage to natural resources. Overall, the negative impact of marijuana sites on natural resources is severe. Human waste and trash are



widespread, contamination from sites affects fish and wildlife habitats, and soil erosion is common. In addition, water usage is extreme because each marijuana plant is estimated to require a gallon of water per day – water that is critical to native vegetation, wildlife, and public drinking water sources.

Forest visitors are urged to be observant while hunting, hiking and camping in secluded areas and to back out and call authorities for help if they come

across suspicious activities. Identifying any landmarks or recording GPS coordinates are very helpful to law enforcement. If you should unexpectedly enter a grow site, leave the way you came in, and make as little noise as possible, as growers may be in the area and may or may not know that you have found their grow site.

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An Evening of Forest Inspired Art

By Teresa Wenum

More than 50 people gathered at Flathead Valley Community College on Sept. 15, to celebrate a cooperative artist-in-residence program that connects talented Montana artists and our communities with local wild lands.

An evening reception and program featured four Flathead Valley artists. The four shared their personal experiences from their 2010 participation in the Artist-Wilderness-Connection Program.



Accomplished watercolor artists, Sandra Marker, Lois Sturgis and Julie Wulf and gifted metal smith Cyndy Mullings presented narrated slideshows that captured the poignant, colorful and reflective moments they experienced during their residency in remote cabins within the Great Bear Wilderness. All shared the personal and professional insights and connections they gained from spending from nine to 14 days in the wilderness. The four artists also showcased several pieces of wilderness inspired artwork created from their residency experiences.

The Artist-Wilderness-Connection Program is a partnership between the Flathead National Forest, Hockaday Museum of Art, Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation and the Swan Ecosystem Center. The program places professional working artists of various disciplines, media and styles in remote forest cabins from one to two week periods of time.

After completing their residency, artists select a format to share their talents and residency experience with the community and donate a representative piece of art to the program. The artwork created since the program started in 2004 is on display at Flathead Valley Community College, Arts and Technology Building through October 21, 2011.

To learn more about the Artist-Wilderness-Connection Program and how to apply, visit <http://www.hockadaymuseum.org/> under Artist Opportunities.

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Nez Perce National Historic Trail Coloring and Activity Book Available

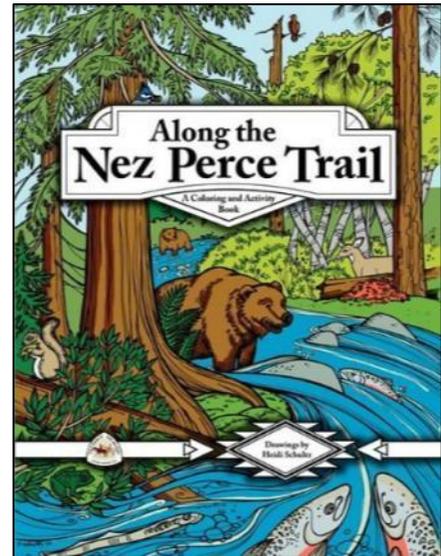
A publication titled Along the Nez Perce Trail – A Coloring and Activity Book will soon be available for sale at U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service offices and other retail outlets along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

This 40-page book provides information about wildlife and the landscape along the 1,170 mile Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

Along the Nez Perce Trail: A Coloring and Activity Book has been reprinted and is now available. Wholesale orders can be placed through [Ingram Book Company](#). The ISBN number for “Along the Nez Perce Trail” is 978-0-914019-61-9.

This book produced in conjunction with [Recreation Solutions](#) and [Discover Your Northwest](#) (DYNW) provides youth with information about the plants and animals they will encounter while they travel the Trail. The book also includes information about Nez Perce names and a pronunciation guide. It retails for \$6.99 plus tax and is also available through the DYNW website: www.discovernw.org/nezperce. Proceeds from the sale of the book go toward educational and interpretive services along the Trail.

Additional information about the Nez Perce National Historic Trail can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/nphht.



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Campground Host Volunteers 10 Years of Dedicated Service

By Laura Smith

Ten years ago, Clara Smith was interested in doing something different and fun. Why not volunteer to be a campground host for the U.S. Forest Service?

“I put in my application for hosting at the South Fork/Castle Creek Campgrounds and the Clearwater Ranger District Recreation Technician called and asked if I was ready to go to work,” said Clara.



Clara had little or no camping experience. She thinks she was selected due to her availability and knowledge of the surrounding area. She was born and raised in Grangeville, Idaho, graduated from Gragneville High Sschool in 1958 and left town after graduation, returning only for visits.

During the off season, “home” for the rest of the year is Coos Bay, Oregon, where she has resided since 1979. She moved there because there was work available. She’s filleted fish and cooked in restaurants, and was a bookkeeper for a sign company, Roto-Rooter, and Kyle Electric. She currently works in a tax office preparing tax reports for an accountant.

Volunteer Campground Hosts generally provide the following kinds of services:

- Greet new campers. Answer questions about the local area.
- Perform other services depending on their capabilities and the campground facilities where assigned, including light maintenance (such as cleaning restrooms and picking up trash) within the campground.
- Volunteer Campground Hosts take no law enforcement measures other than being observant and notifying Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) of problems.

Clara does all of the above, plus keeps a supply of Idaho Fish & Game regulations for people who ask.

“I’m not here when hunting season starts in October – only through Labor Day Weekend – but a few people ask for the fishing regulations.” She doesn’t collect fees, but she keeps a log of license plate numbers and paid fee stubs in the windows of vehicles.

There have been a few incidents where Clara felt someone could come to harm at the campground and she took preventative measures to contact law enforcement or emergency medical technicians to assist.

“Once I heard a gunshot near the campground and there were a lot of little kids around,” exclaimed Clara, so I called the Sheriff’s Office and the Deputy came down.” The Deputy couldn’t locate who discharged the firearm, but it was reassuring to have him check it out.

Another time a young man and his family were camping during an active wildfire season and campfire restrictions were in place. He built a campfire anyway. He was asked to extinguish the fire, but later, he built another one. Clara summoned a Nez Perce National Forest LEO and the man was cited.

A camper went into a diabetic coma and Clara requested an ambulance from Grangeville. Shortly before the ambulance arrived, a brother of the victim was able to locate the insulin and administered it to him. The emergency responders made sure the camper was stable and thanked Clara for being on her toes, once again.

One of the most important benefits hosts receive is a sense of satisfaction that comes in knowing you have helped make the camping experience more enjoyable for other campers. Obviously, Clara enjoys helping people – from her experiences she shared where she provided assistance, there was a happy ending for both Clara and the campers.

Clara is not alone while going about her daily tasks as a good host, she has her faithful Buddy with her on a leash.

“I got Buddy as a puppy in 2003 and he’s been with me ever since.” Another roomie – Charlie, a blue point Siamese, was found by Clara at the campground in 2002, no one ever claimed him.

Wildlife is often observed at the campground and along the river – mostly whitetail deer, beaver, squirrels, chipmunks, and a large variety of songbirds. Clara added, “Oh, and rats and mice – Buddy needs something to do!” She’s never seen any bears in the campgrounds during the day, but there is evidence that they visit during the night.

“The South Fork Campground can accommodate moderate sized RVs. You are camped right along the South Fork of Clearwater River, so bring your fishing pole for trout, steelhead or maybe even salmon fishing. It’s a great place for a picnic or multi-day camping,” shared Clara.

Hosts have the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life and perhaps develop new friendships. Many of the campers are from all over the U.S. Just recently there were campers at Castle Creek from Switzerland and New Zealand. Clara has met and made friends with several folks over the years and she keeps in touch with them through emails and letters. Occasionally they return to stay at the campground.

Some of Clara’s talents and interests are crocheting, reading books, playing games on the computer, watching movies (not TV) and walking – a lot of walking.

As a volunteer campground host, Clara is obviously concerned about our forest’s natural resources, but what concerns her the most?

“It scares me when people leave their campfires burning unattended and perhaps being surrounded by wildfire if it gets out of control.”

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The Northern Region's Youth Conservation Corps: A Summer to Remember

By Joni Packard

It usually begins simple enough... a Youth Conservation Corps recruitment notice in the spring at the local high school, talking about a summer of hard work, digging trails, maintaining campgrounds, pulling weeds, installing signs. As a 15, 16 or 17-something-teen, you may not quite know what you're getting into but you've heard good things from some of your friends, and besides, the pay sounds good! So, off you go, ready for adventure! But you're still not quite sure what to expect...

This year, the Lolo, Kootenai, Nez Perce-Clearwater, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests and Dakota Prairie Grasslands hosted another successful season of Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) programs. Seventy-seven young people between the ages of 15-18 were employed in natural resource and conservation work, learning about the Forest Service and the agency's mission, but most importantly, learning even more about themselves...

YCC...Youth...Conservation... Corps... teaching... building... experiencing...self-reliance... working as a team... hard, physical labor... learning how to keep at a job until it's done... working with tools for the first time... learning new skills... seeing what's possible... solving a problem on your own... looking back at season's end with an incredible sense of pride and accomplishment at all you have done...

Legislated nationally as a permanent program in 1974, the Youth Conservation Corps puts young people to work on needed conservation projects while providing environmental education opportunities that allow them to "learn while they earn."

In 2011, YCC crew members in the Northern Region completed a tremendous amount of work, complimenting ranger district staffs and crews. White pine pruning, slash piling, weed inventories, knap weed and blue weed pulling, maintenance and cleaning of rental lookouts, campground maintenance, trail clearing and maintenance, painting of historic buildings, road sign installation, netting young trees to protect emerging buds, aspen tree surveys, snag surveys, installing white bark pine cages, goshawk and harlequin duck surveys, fixing fences, clearing bridges, snow shoveling, culvert cleaning, sign painting, and litter pickup were just some of the major YCC projects this year.

"Being in the wild is awesome..."

"Laurie's fun... she expects you to get things done..."

"Can we do this during the school year too?"

"I learned I could be more than a truck driver or waitress..."

"I could hike but I also had a job..."

"It was really fun..."

"I learned about places I can take my family to..."

"It's really teaching people how to love the woods..."

For many young people, the YCC program is a way to earn money in small, rural communities where employment for young people is hard to find. For others, it becomes a way to learn about the environment, the Forest Service, new careers, and meet biologists, recreation managers, foresters and engineers.

It can be a way to find out what you *don't* want to do for the rest of your life (white pine pruning!). It can be a way to spend a summer with old friends, and make new ones too (that 'cross town school rival isn't so bad after all!). And for most, it's a way to get out on the forest or grasslands for the first time, experiencing places they've never been before, whether it's a trail heading up to a high mountain lake, or the opportunity to scan the horizon from a fire lookout's deck, or see a native grass prairie that fills a big, open sky.

The summer's over now and you're heading back to school, or perhaps even taking that first bold step called college. You've found muscles you never knew you had before, and now you know you can take on anything. You feel strong, confident. You've seen places wild and wonderful. You've met new people who are now good friends. And you can see lots of options now... maybe medical school isn't so far out of reach...or perhaps working in the woods might be a way to go – that sure was fun. There's some money in the pocket, and a summer full of memories. It feels good. The summer's over now... but the adventure has just begun!

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Carrying on the Memory of Stacie Ann DeWolf

By Dan Knudson

Stacie Ann DeWolf was remarkable in many ways. Born in Helena, Mont., as the sixth of eight children to William and Betty Me DeWolf, she exhibited true passion and caring determination from an early age. After attending school in Helena, she enrolled in the College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana graduating in 1982.



During high school, Stacie developed a passion for forestry, a passion she developed into a career working for the U.S. Forest Service. Beginning in 1975, while still attending Capital High School in Helena, Stacie began working summers for the Helena National Forest, in an entry-level position paying \$2.18 per hour. That summer, Stacie joined the first all-female firefighting group in U.S. Forest Service history.

Her caring determination, professionalism, and passion propelled her to both a lifelong career working for the agency where she enjoyed a position of respect and admiration.

DeWolf's career spanned from 1976 until her tragic death in 2007. She held many different positions during that period, each with progressively increasing duties and responsibility. Her latter roles included regional timber sales information specialist, small business association specialist, and special forest products specialists serving all the forests within the Northern Region.



Stacie dedicated herself to developing lasting and beneficial relationships with the hard-working people she worked with throughout the forest products supply chain. She cared deeply for the communities and the people with whom she interacted and advocated on behalf of private forest products businesses throughout Montana and Idaho within the legislative process.

In addition to serving the land and the people of the Northern Region, Stacie herself was passionately devoted to recreation and stewardship of public trust lands. She spent considerable time exploring wilderness areas, and was especially fond of the Bitterroot Mountains, Glacier National Park, Lolo Pass, and the Rattlesnake canyon. She also enjoyed traveling to other areas of the country to explore and interact with the great outdoors.

Stacie worked for most of her lifetime to further responsible public trust land stewardship practices. She did so firmly located in an understanding that public trust lands were to be protected, preserved, and conserved for all current and future generations.

To honor her lifelong achievements and the impact that Stacie Ann DeWolf made upon the people and landscape of her world, as well as to celebrate her contribution to so many lives, her family has established the Stacie Ann DeWolf Scholarship at the College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana.

The scholarship is designed to support aspiring foresters to continue the work begun by Stacie during her lifetime and professional career. Those students wishing to continue in DeWolf's trailblazing footsteps must be a junior level student at the College of Forestry and Conservation or above. Applicants should also seek to further Stacie's forestry and conservation ideals while achieving scholastic success.

For further information, please contact the College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana.

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Employees Lend a Hand at Inaugural Weed Pull

By Mariah Leuschen

Twelve employees headed up the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area on Friday, Sept. 16, for an inaugural weed pulling event hosted by the Lolo National Forest and the Regional Office Wellness Committee in Missoula.

The weed pull was a success with nearly 18 large garbage bags of knapweed collected and estimated at over 250 lbs. of weeds. Spotted knapweed, one of the most common noxious weed across Montana and much of the Northern Region's landscapes can produce 400 - 2,000 seeds per plant. Each of these seeds can persist in the soil and remain viable for up to five years.



Tactics such as incidental hand pulling, like what took place on Friday, helps to decrease the seed supply and prevents further establishment of spotted knapweed. Across the Northern Region, hand pulling is an important tool in managing spotted knapweed in small infestations.

The idea of an annual weed pull is likely to reemerge next spring and summer with a series of employee days over a variety of field-based expertise areas. Each field-based activity will incorporate subject-matter expertise and allow employees to meet co-workers and share in camaraderie across many of our local resource areas.

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Length of Service Awards

Name	# of years	Unit
Christopher "Chud" Lundgreen	5	ENG
Cheryl Vanderburg	25	S&P
Roger Peterson	25	RMLHW
Gregory Treible	5	ACE
Daniel Moe	10	ACE
Thor Burbach	10	RRM
Jan Oliver	20	PGR
Matthew Mahe	10	FA&A
Timothy Rova	15	FA&A
Joshua Clint	15	FA&A
Brian Ahshapanek	20	FA&A
Jeff Holwick	25	FA&A
Bonny Resner	30	FA&A

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New Idaho Panhandle NF Supervisor

By Phil Sammon

Mary Farnsworth, former Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon, took over as the Supervisor for the Idaho Panhandle National Forest on October 11.

“Her skills and abilities will be a great asset for natural resource management and direction for northern Idaho,” said Regional Forester Leslie Weldon in the announcement of Farnsworth’s selection.

Farnsworth is a San Diego native who began her career on the Umatilla National Forest, covering southeast Washington and northeast Oregon. She came into the agency in 1987 under a student-focused employment program, and worked across many areas including timber planning, silviculture, wildlife, engineering, and on a summer fire assignment to the Redmond Hotshots in central Oregon.

Farnsworth’s experiences also include fire management work on the Tahoe National Forest; an assignment as District Fire Management Officer on the Eldorado National Forest; and a staff assignment with the National Fire Plan Coordinator in Washington DC. In 2003, Farnsworth became a District Ranger on the Payette National Forest in western Idaho prior to taking over as the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Deschutes in 2008. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management from Humboldt State University.

Farnsworth takes over as supervisor of more than 300 permanent employees and hundreds more seasonal and temporary employees in charge of managing about 2.5 million acres of Northern Idaho forest land.

“I am in awe as to the amount and complexity of work on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest; from Forest Plan Revision and complex planning issues, to interesting wildlife concerns and recreation interests.” Farnsworth stated on her selection. “I’m really excited to get involved with local communities and partners, and engaging with employees to forward the work of the Forest.”

The Idaho Panhandle National Forest was created in 1973 to administer the Coeur d'Alene, Kaniksu, and St. Joe National Forests. There are 850,000 acres of inventoried roadless lands (48 areas totaling 34% of the land base) and a portion of one wilderness, the Salmo-Priest (11,950 acres) administered by the Colville National Forest.



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Union Highlights

From Ron Angel

Nearly all fire positions GS-9 and below will now be allowed into the bargaining unit, based on an agreement between the union and management at the national level signed on July 19, 2011. This agreement was signed by Ron Angel and Tom Harbour. The implementation started with Region1 and all of the administrative work is close to being done.

E-meetings were held on the implementation of the 301 series in fire on Sept. 15 and Sept. 20. These were held to explain the change that will happen to line officers and affected employees. Ron Angel participated in the calls for the union.

As we try to prepare ourselves for the upcoming budget, the union is gathering input from employees on efficiencies to the organizations on the forests. By being proactive and working in collaboration, we hope to lessen the potential impact on employees.

The union has been working on organizing the Custer and the Gallatin National Forests for about a year now. We are getting close with the professional employees and are still a ways away with the technicians.

If you're interested in helping please contact Ron Angel at 208-290-7188.

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Inside the Vault: The Northern Region Archives

By Shandy Lemperlé

The history of the Northern Region goes back more than 100 years, when the first Forest Reserves were established in 1897 by President Grover Cleveland. Of the first 13 reserves to be designated, three were within what would later become the Northern Region of the Forest Service.

Throughout the last century, the Northern Region has continued to be at the center of important historical events, such as the 1910 Fires and the development of Smokejumping.

In order to safeguard this history, the Regional Office (RO) maintains an archives of materials deemed to be of lasting historical importance. The archives, located within the Public and Governmental Relations (PGR) department, consist of over 10,000 photographs, thousands of historic documents, and hundreds of artifacts and books. Many materials are also kept at the Seattle branch of the National Archives and Records Administration and can be obtained for research in the RO through the archives manager.

As the archivist I am available to assist the general public as well as Forest Service employees with information and photographic print requests. I keep catalogs and inventories of this vast collection and ensure that it is properly cared for and stored in archival-quality containers and boxes. We have recently acquired full use of the vault on the main level of the Regional Office, which provides us with a safe place to house the collection.

In addition to preserving our archives for use by researchers, we also seek to share them with the general public. In 2005 the PGR staff put together the exhibit "Splendid Was the Trail: Photographs of the National Forests by K.D. Swan 1911-1947." This popular exhibit travelled across the state and was displayed in numerous museums. More recently, this exhibit has been installed at the Missoula International Airport on an extended loan through September, 2012. It is located past the security check, as passengers move toward the gates.

We also have two online exhibits, which have been developed from materials in the collection. The exhibit, "Photographic Point Camera Project," explores an early Forest Service program where photographs were taken at specific locations on numerous forests. Ten to 20 years later, photographers returned and re-photographed these places to document the change brought about through land management. To visit this website, go to: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r1/photo-points>.

PGR also put together a commemorative website for the 100th anniversary of the 1910 Fires. The exhibit is an informational site that provides photographs, original accounts, newspaper clippings, and links to other websites about the 1910 Fires. The commemorative website can be accessed at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/1910-centennial/index.html>.

If you have an inquiry about our collection or have materials you would like to donate, I can be reached at (406) 329-3098 or salemperle@fs.fed.us.

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Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Announce Book Release

By Phil Sammon

The U.S. Forest Service and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) have announced the upcoming release of “The Wild Life of Elk,” a conservation primer on the life, behaviors and habits of elk, as part of their longstanding partnership.

The idea of creating a children's book about elk as a partnership project was first introduced in May 2009, during discussions about the USFS/RMEF 25-year partnership anniversary celebration.

The book, in publication now with Mountain Press of Missoula, Mont., colorfully delivers facts and information on the habits, behaviors, life cycle and habitat of elk intended for 3rd through 6th grade children.

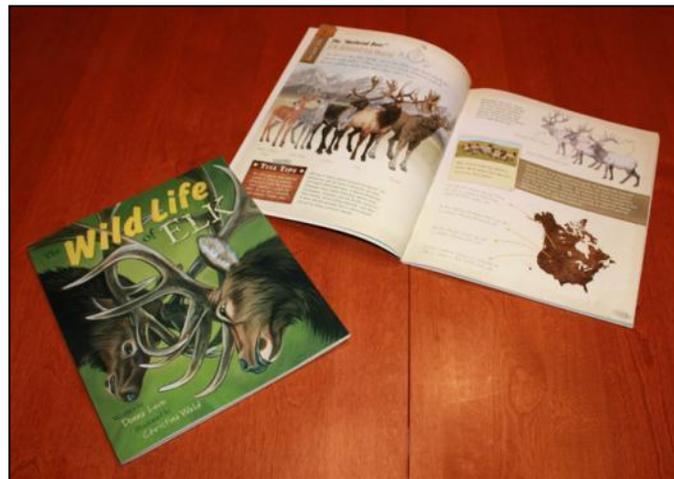
The project was initially designed as a short-run in-house project, but as the scope of its writing and illustrations became more tangible, both partners realized it would fill a void among conservation literature for one of North America’s larger mammals. Both organizations place a great deal of emphasis on conservation education, and determined that the project should be expanded to increase its reach and effectiveness given their organization’s objectives.

“National forests and grasslands provide vital habitat for about 80 percent of the elk in America today,” stated Leslie Weldon, the Regional Forester for the agency’s Northern Region covering Northern Idaho, Montana and North Dakota. “Because of this major resource management responsibility, it is only natural that we partner with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to broaden the effectiveness of our collective resource efforts.”

David Allen, the President and CEO of the RMEF, echoed Weldon’s sentiment.

“Since 1984, we have worked together on over 2,300 projects affecting almost 3 million acres of public lands spread across 84 different National Forests, Grasslands and Recreation Areas. Many of these projects included conservation education components, so we welcomed the opportunity to expand our partnership into a new arena with the development of this beautiful book.”

Both organization heads agree that future leaders for conservation in America are in classrooms across America today. Reaching those students with materials that develop and inspire their passion for the care of our natural resources is paramount. Over the course of the partnership each organization has promoted a wide range of conservation education for the sustainability of our water resources and watersheds, wildlife habitat, and the clean air and water benefits we all gain from those efforts.



Weldon added, "It is vitally important for the Forest Service, the Elk Foundation and other organizations to find ways to reconnect children with nature in ways that make lifelong impressions. They are the future of our conservation efforts here in the northern region and nationally. We are committed to producing high quality, science-based educational materials like "The Wild Life of Elk" to foster and develop an understanding of and appreciation for the importance of our natural resources."

Noted children's book author Donna Love and illustrator Christina Wald were selected to develop the book under a competitive sourcing process. Love and Wald had worked together on previous projects, including the children's book "Henry the Impatient Heron" (2009), which received a Mom's Choice Award (a gold medal for "values and life lessons"). The text and illustrations in "The Wild Life of Elk" will also help many young children learn about elk and their habitat in a fun and meaningful way.

The book is currently available through the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Visitor Center (<http://www.rmef.org/>) at 1-866-266-7750; online through the publisher at <http://mountain-press.com/>; or from other online retail book outlets.

For more information on the U.S. Forest Service, and our conservation education programs, visit us at <http://www.fs.fed.us>.

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New Access Dedicated on Beartooth Ranger District

The Face of the Mountain Trailhead dedication held on Thursday, August 11, was well attended by an enthusiastic group of hikers eager to explore the new non-motorized trail onto the forest.

The new trail literally traces the dramatic transition from the prairies to the peaks, and provides a different experience than the typical Forest Service trails through lodgepole forests or alpine plateaus. Hikers walk from grassy hills up through bergamot, sego lilies, and waist high shrubs, on through cottonwood stands, and finally to towering stands of Douglas fir.



This access was made possible by the generous donation of an easement by Sunlight Ranches, as well as a right-of-way granted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) through the adjacent section.

District Ranger Traute Parrie stated, “This is a unique opportunity in this day and age, and comes with responsibilities on the part of both the Forest Service and the public in order to keep this access.”

The expectations of the landowner are that users will stay on the designated trail and follow regulations put in place by the Forest Service to protect private property as well as natural resources. In addition, the Forest Service will be patrolling the trail and provide a heightened level of enforcement in order to make this work for everyone.

This easement provides a long missing link to several trails on Mount Maurice and beyond, with loop opportunities now available to South Grove Creek, Robertson Draw, Line Creek, the Mount Maurice Trail, or even Corral Creek. Opportunities range from out-and-back hikes to day trips.

During the dedication, Parrie shared tokens of appreciation with Sunlight Ranches, BLM, and Forest Service employees who all worked hard to make this opportunity happen.

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Northern Region Employee Survey

Ensuring that employees of the U.S. Forest Service Northern Region are happy and satisfied in the roles they perform is a primary mission of both regional and senior agency management. Happy and satisfied employees enjoy what they do and feel valued and empowered within their roles and responsibilities. Recent federal employee surveys have illustrated that for some; there may be areas of opportunity within the agency to build value into the personnel experience.

In order to accomplish this mission and ensure that region and senior management are aggressively working to ensure the highest levels of satisfaction for everyone, the Northern Region is set to begin a working collaboration with employees throughout the region to gain valuable insight and feedback necessary to improve the process. Every attempt will be made to reduce the impact to region employees randomly selected to participate.

Employees selected are set to receive written instructions and a copy of the initial survey within the next two weeks. Returning surveys should be returned by Nov. 1, 2011, in order to ensure the information received is processed in a timely fashion. This survey is designed to identify the point where valuable work building employment and experience begin for each participant. Those selected can be assured that their participation, feedback, and comments will be fully anonymous in nature and will be collected and reviewed by an outside party to ensure that participants feel empowered to share and collaborate. Participants will receive an email indicating what is being asked of them and how the process will begin.

Building a working framework by which the agency can learn and adapt is essential to moving toward a desired outcome.

Caring for the land and serving the people also incorporates a critical piece: to care for those great folks who do the amazing work and to ensure employees are working together to provide the highest level of positive employment experience.

The hard work everyone does is much appreciated. Thank you in advance for those selected to participate and know that you will help make working for the U.S. Forest Service Northern Region the experience we all want and need it to be.

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