

April, 2012

## Salmon - Challis National Forest

# Currents



Volume 1, Issue 4

Dana Bowman

## "It's Not the Disability... It's the Ability, Never Quit"

Sgt. Dana Bowman (U.S. Army Ret.) delivered an inspirational keynote address at the Salmon-Challis N.F. Human Rights Day, March 7, in Challis.

Bowman was a Special Forces soldier and member of the U.S. Army's elite Golden Knights parachute team in 1994 when a mid-air collision cost him both of his legs. His determination to succeed in the Army and now in civilian

the best with what you have" and to "move from good to great."

Bowman is no stranger to Challis. Last September he dropped in on the Veterans of Custer County Memorial dedication, landing at the ceremony with his parachute and a huge American flag.

Following his keynote address Bowman went to talk with the students at the Challis Elementary School.

Human Rights Day was sponsored by the SCNF Civil Rights Action Team (CRAT).



Bowman drops in on Veterans Memorial Dedication. (Challis Messenger Photo)



Sgt. Bowman says "You can do it!"

life, has earned him worldwide recognition as a motivational speaker and skydive demonstrator. His powerful presentation on conquering adversity emphasized that "attitude" is the number one determinant of success. He inspired Forest employees to "do

## Jim James Provides Civil Rights Insights

Jim James, former Information Specialist for the Challis National Forest, spoke to the Forest employees about his 10 years on the R-4 Civil Rights Team.

His experience led to an assignment to work on a Forest Service-wide team developing the "Towards a Multi-Cultural Organization," plan 1990-92. Jim served as the chair of the national group in 1992 when the report was completed.

Jim retired in 1995 and started an auto mechanic shop. He lost his sight in an accident in 1956.



Jim James, "I see what you mean."

## CRAT Presents Annual Civil Rights Awards on Human Rights Day

During Human Rights day the Salmon-Challis National Forest CRAT presented special awards to these seven individuals who were nominated by their co-workers for outstanding professionalism, leadership, caring, cooperation, willingness to help, friendliness, etc.

### Inspiration Award

**Teresa Johnson**

*For your positive, professional manner and ability to explain and track the many issues related to budgets. Your talent for prioritizing and getting the job done, all with a smile, is inspirational to us all.*

### Leadership Award

**Jim Tucker**

*For your efforts that bring unity and harmony to your area of supervision as well as throughout the office setting. Your caring, professional manner, and ability to listen are exemplary of your success as a program leader and manager on the Forest.*

### Above and Beyond Award

**Mike Smith**

*For your accomplishments in building and improving the fuels program on the north zone and assisting other functions when the need arises. You are a team player and strong supporter of Forest organizations and operations.*

### Environment Award

**Barbara Andrews**

*For your contributions to a positive work environment through responsive, friendly and professional interaction with fellow staff members, and outstanding customer service to the outfitter-guide community.*

### Above and Beyond Award

**Rosa Anderson**

*For your expert assistance and willingness to help your coworkers and the public we serve. We rely on your efforts in all aspects of managing the Lost River Ranger District and its people.*

### Above and Beyond Award

**John Fowler**

*For your exceptional support of your coworkers. In recognition of your efforts and successes to improve the morale of others in our workplace.*

### Above and Beyond Award

**Phil McNeal**

*For your enthusiasm, proficiency and technical expertise that brings accomplishment and success to the trails program on the south zone. Your ability to work with a variety of employment groups, partners and other resource departments to achieve your mission is evidence of your skills as a team player.*



Barbra Andrews — Environment Award



Teresa Johnson receives the Inspiration Award from Tommy Gionet.

## Ingrid Drieling Helps to Develop Grazing Management Plan in Morocco

Recently Ingrid Drieling along with a team of Forest Service employees went on a trip sponsored by International Programs to Morocco. During their visit, the USFS team met with the Moroccan Government's High Commission personnel from Rabat, Marrakesh, Meknes and Azrou and the leadership of the Ait Aarfa Tigrigra Association. Together they developed the Ait Aarfa Tigrigra Association Grazing Management Plan, which was finalized and agreed to on March 2, 2012. The US team and the Moroccan team used their experiences having being taught the principles of Rangeland Management thru a training developed by a US team, taught to the Moroccan team and then adapted to fit conditions in Morocco.

The USFS team along with HC regional leaders and the president of the Grazing Association got the unique experience of meeting with the governor of Ifrane Province. The Governor was very interested in the project and its potential to increase incomes and standards of living in the community. The Governor emphasized to the Association president that project success was critical not only for improvement of their rangelands but also for the country, since a successful project can then be replicated in other parts of Morocco. This was a great success for the USFS team.

Ingrid Drieling along with a Peace Corp volunteer and local NGO employee was able to conduct a Rangeland Management training for the women of the association. Etto Ouhata was the primary presenter speaking both Berber and Moroccan Arabic. The session covered an introduction to the basic concepts covered under the Rangeland Management Training and an overview of the Grazing Management Plan. There was also an in-depth conversation on how the women could start their own cooperative to earn additional funds for their families.

The USFS team over all had an extremely positive professional experience with its counterparts in Morocco. It was a privilege for the Forest Service team to share experiences and strategies to further sustainable rangeland management in both countries.

**Reminder: The Memorial Run Wellness Challenge starts April 23rd and will continue for 6 weeks, concluding with the 2nd annual Jeff Allen and Shane Heath Memorial Run to be held on June 2nd 2012.**



Piper Goessel and Shawna Johansen drove from Challis to enjoy the Salmon - Challis N.F. Ski Day at Lost Trail Pass.

## Employees Hit the Slopes, Choose to Lose the Winter Blues

January 27 was a great day on the mountain for skiers and snowshoers alike. There were about 20 or so FS employees and family members that participated in Ski Day activities at Lost Trail Ski Area and Chief Joseph Cross Country Ski Area. While it was hard to find everyone scattered on the mountain having fun, Frank was successful in gathering most of the gang together in the parking lot when he fired up his grill and cooked some brats and burgers. I thought it was a great day for skiing and I think the Forest should look forward to next year and maybe making this an annual event to relieve some stress and get out to enjoy the wonderful recreational opportunities offered in Idaho.

*Rob Hoelscher, North Zone Acting District Ranger*

### Jackie Caivano Scholarship Program

The Salmon-Challis National Forest has been sponsoring this scholarship program since 1998. Graduating seniors from the four high schools in Lemhi and Custer Counties with a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher are eligible to apply for this scholarship. This year we raised:

\$2183 - Fall SZ Silent Auctions

\$2025 - Live Auction at CRAT Day

\$1113 - Spring NZ Silent Auctions

\$390 - Spring NZ Other Fundraisers

\$5711 - Total funds raised in 2011-2012

Scholarship Applications due next week.

The scholarship was set up in memory of Jackie Caivano, a career Forest Service employee who worked in a variety of administrative positions for the Forest Service. Jackie is remembered for her professionalism and willingness to assist other employees in their jobs.

## CIRAC Projects Have Been Helping SCNF Since 2002

In May the Salmon-Challis National Forest will begin implementing the final year of Title II projects. The Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) has worked with the forest over the past 11 years to recommend some 237 natural resource projects totaling \$4,606,856.

The funding was made available to Butte, Custer and Lemhi counties through Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2001, reapproved 2008.

During the first seven years the RAC had about \$126,000 per year to recommend projects. Then in December of 2008 the SRS Act was reapproved and the CIRAC re-chartered for four more years. Changes in the payments to states formula and county appropriation provided much more money for Title II projects. The RAC received more funding in 2009 (\$1,006,240) than the total it had received between 2002 and 2008 (\$882,278). The RAC approved \$3,724,578 for projects during 2009 through 2012. The funding and the RAC's authority to recommend projects expired September 30, 2011.

The RAC works closely with the Forest



A member of the Lost River Fisheries Student Program assessing fish populations in a mountain lake as part of a CIRAC recommended project managed by the Forest Service.

Service to recommend and approve projects that will benefit forest health, fish, wildlife, soils, watersheds and other resources; maintain roads, trails and other infrastructure; and control noxious weeds. A number of these projects put young people to work in the woods (*see page 6*).

RAC projects must be located on National Forest System Lands in Custer, Lemhi or Butte counties or on other nearby lands for the projects to bene-

fit the resources on the National Forests. Projects can be completed by Forest Service personnel, through partnership agreements or by open-bid contracting with individuals and corporations.

The Central Idaho RAC is made up of 15 private individuals chosen by the Secretary of Agriculture to represent various interests. They volunteer their time to review numerous project proposals, make suggestions, and then discuss each project and vote to determine which projects will be recommended to the Forest Service. Ten of the current members have been with the RAC since it was started in 2002.

### Central Idaho RAC

The CRAC members are: Group A: Bruce Cole, Bert Doughty, Jerry Hamilton, Doug Westfall, Bart Wojciechowski. Group B: Dick Hauff, Dan Mulick, Gary Power, Richard Smith, Hadley Roberts, and Group C: Wayne Butts, Bob Cope (CIRAC Chair), Earl Skeen, Mike England, and Mark Stauffer. Sarah Baker, Gary Gadwa and Alan Howe are alternative members who are available to fill vacancies if a RAC position becomes vacant.



A contractor uses an excavator with a masticating head to clear brush from the edge of the Stormy Peak Road. The project was one of a number of road maintenance projects completed using Title II funds.

### CIRAC Project Photos



Plowing open campground roads for fisherman access to restrooms during steelhead season on the Sawtooth NRA.



Truck sprays magnesium chloride for dust abatement on a forest road.



Roadside spraying with the Forest Service spray truck.



County fuels reduction projects provide firewood for needy families.



Aquatic Mentoring Crew electrofishing for Bull Trout presence/absence.



SVS crew learns quantitative monitoring techniques for noxious weed management as part of a Salmon Valley Stewardship project.

## CIRAC Projects Put Kids to Work in the Woods

One of CIRAC's objectives is to recommend projects that provide summer jobs for youths on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The following organizations and programs provided the youth workers to complete such projects as trail, fence and campground maintenance, fuels reduction, resource monitoring and mentoring.



Lost River YCC by a completed trail barrier.

**YCC** The Youth Conservation Corps is a Forest Service summer employment program for young men and women, ages 15 through 18, who work on conservation projects on National Forests. The CIRAC has supported four YCC crews on the SCNF; Challis-Yankee Fork, Leadore, Lost River and Salmon. They also provided shared funding for the Sawtooth NRA YCC.

**SCA** The Student Conservation Association provides a 15 - 20 person crew of college age kids for volunteer work on resource projects each summer. CIRAC funding supported an SCA crew that installed signs to designate routes on public land administered by both the SCNF and BLM for implementation of their travel management plans. SCA crews also work on trail and infrastructure maintenance and other projects.

**YEP** The Youth Employment Program is a local organization that provides employment for youths 14 and older working in five to eight person crews CIRAC has supported projects that used YEP crews for trails and stock facilities maintenance, fuels reduction and riparian fence construction.



SCA members installed a total of 345 carsonite posts with reflective road number stickers for travel management signs.



Leadore YCC - fixing fences.

**Other Projects** CIRAC also approved funding for other projects employing youth including Lemhi Aquatic Monitoring, Lost River Student Fisheries, Salmon Valley Stewardship and Lemhi County Economic Development.



YEP crew sets a stock hitching rail in concrete.

Challis -Yankee Fork YCC (right) stands by a fence they built that funnels sheep away from the riparian area and across the sheep bridge.



Members of the Sawtooth YCC (left) work in a stream in Custer County to improve fish habitat and restore natural flows.

## Three Cultural Resource Projects Completed During 2011 Field Season

### Middle Fork Heritage Work

During August 2011, the North Zone Heritage team assessed a number of campsites along the Middle Fork that are also cultural sites used by early Native Americans and/or rugged backcountry homesteaders. Detailed site maps were created for Lower Parrot cabin and Stoddard campsite and site forms were updated for management use. In addition, a minimally recorded pictograph site was fully documented and evaluated for the National Register.



Lower Parrot Cabin



Stoddard Campsite

Pictographs



Two-story ranger's house at Indianola with new porch and columns and reconditioned windows installed.

### Indianola is "Picture Perfect" Once Again

Over the past several years, the North Zone Heritage team has enlisted the help of several local volunteers and Salmon-Challis National Forest employees to scrape and repaint the two-story ranger's house at Indianola. In September, the historic restoration crew based in Dillon, MT on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest was contracted to rebuild the front porch and columns. They also reinstalled the windows after they assisted the Heritage team in window repairs, glazing and painting. The Forest Service acquired the property in 1910. The two-story house was constructed in 1911 after a fire destroyed the original homestead house.



Lynn Bott and Gerri Coon, BDNF historic restoration crew, remove the old metal sheeting and rotted timber.

### CCC - Built Long Tom Toilet Restored

In October, the Beaverhead-Deerlodge N. F. historic restoration crew refurbished the roof on the toilet at Long Tom Picnic Area. The toilet was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the mid-1930s. Utilizing the sheer rock face for the back wall of the toilet, the structure exemplifies the characteristic CCC rustic architectural design. At some time in the past, the original cedar shingles on the toilet roof were replaced with metal sheeting and the fascia on the front of the building was removed, exposing the ends of the log rafters to the elements. The rotted components were replaced, metal sheeting was removed and the roof was resurfaced with cedar shingles.



Idaho's "best historic toilet" restored to original condition.

## The Last Page ... Checking In and Checking Out

The Forest will soon have a new check-in check-out policy and I won't be here to use it. I'm checking out of the Forest Service and leaving the Salmon-Challis NF for good April 30.

My first full-time job with the outfit started right here in Salmon April 22, 1990. It was like I had died and gone to heaven. I've been lucky to spend my entire career here central Idaho.

My first crack at "public involvement" was for an ill-fated attempt to update the Salmon NF's outdated travel management plan. Through the years I have been involved in numerous public involvement projects including; the Frank-Church - River of No Return Wilderness Plan, the Salmon - Challis Forests combination, numerous EIS projects, the CIRAC, and two rounds of meeting for the recently and successfully completed Salmon-Challis NF Travel management plan.



I've enjoyed portraying Ora Cockrell, the first Ranger on the Salmon River Forest Reserve, 1905, and hope to continue doing so in retirement. I'll see you at Custer Days.

I've been involved in Fire Information on the Forest for 22 years including 2000 when we hosted five Type I teams at one time. I'm about burned out.

This has been the best job I have ever had. I've been able to be a part of the management of one of the most beautiful, rugged, chunks of land in the world—Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers. And I've been able to work with hundreds of good people who care deeply about the land.

Robin and I will be staying in Salmon and have plans to visit our grandkids in Utah often. We're planning trips to Capitol Reef, the Uinta Mountains, and the Tetshinsheeni River in Alaska this summer. We'll have a great time.



From now on my motto will be. *Vedo cum fluvium* "Go with the flow." Thanks, everyone  
Kent Fuellenbach, PAO

### New Check-In / Check-Out Policy Coming Soon

The Salmon-Challis National Forest will switch to a dispatch based check-in/check-out system following a decision made by the Forest Leadership Team March 22. The decision followed a discussion between a group assigned to put together a recommendation and the FLT. The decision includes the following points:

- Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch will handle tracking of check-in/check-out for all employees on the Forest, including non-Forest employees who work in Forest office space.
- Use of this system is mandatory.
- The original group assigned to this task will work out the details and make recommendations to the FLT on protocols and technology by April 16. The group will evaluate whether the Supervisor's Office will continue to use the In & Out Board.
- The new system will be implemented this spring.

Safety is the main reason this decision was made. A number of concerns have been raised concerning the current In-Outboard system:

- It lacks clear standard operating procedures
- It lacks clearly defined roles and responsibilities
- It has too many communication links
- It has no centralized employee tracking
- It makes inaccurate assumptions about supervisor's capabilities, particularly in rapidly changing situations, such as fire

"The status quo is clearly not acceptable," said Forest Supervisor Frank Guzman. "What worries me is if someone goes missing we may not have the tools to determine where they are and to take timely action." The FLT unanimously supported the decision to move to a dispatch-based system. Guzman also noted, "The group did a good job of gathering information and ideas and came up with a proposal that got us thinking about what we needed for our check-in, check out policy."