



NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN RETIREE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Forest Service Retirees:

The NRMRA continues to meet in person. We've been meeting outdoors behind the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. Sadly, we weren't able to gather for the summer picnic due to other commitments. Our members may be retired but they're active and finding time to meet peoples busy summer schedules can be a challenge. Nevertheless, we'll plan for next year's event earlier to help avoid schedule conflicts. I hope you enjoy the wonderful Newsletter that Vicky puts together for the Association. It's filled with great information, news and stories. Vicky is always looking for new material and stories from our members, so please take some time and share a memorable recollection. The Newsletter is the one thing that keeps us connected and we need your contributions. I've seen many Newsletters and ours is among the best.

Thanks for remaining a part of the NRMRA!

Tim



*Nez Perce Road, 1930s.
Courtesy of Betsy Brandborg.*

Last winter, due to the COVID situation, Missoula area retirees met at the Museum of Mountain Flying for our monthly lunch gathering. As of press time it is undecided if we will continue to meet there or back at Jakers. We will let retirees on our local email list know as plans firm up. Lunches are the first Tuesday of the month at 11:30. We have several presentations planned for our winter lunch gatherings. So far, we have planned a presentation about the Forest Service's Historic Preservation program and one from the Friends of Nine Mile organization.

SUMMERS ON THE ST. JOE

by Phil Schlamp

The summer of 1943 I was 16 and heard about a Forest Service job out west. Because of the war, the age for government employment was dropped from 18 to 16, so I applied. Little did I know what this job was all about. It was identified as a blister rust camp.

What the heck is blister rust? I found out and made my way to Avery Idaho via the Milwaukee Railroad. How convenient, a railroad that originates in Milwaukee Wisconsin (my hometown), passes through Avery, Idaho and ends in Seattle. Blister Rust is a disease of the white pine trees which at that time was worth more than other species. To stop the disease, we had to eradicate the alternate host to the white pine, a species of Ribes. By exposing the roots of these plants to air the spread of blister rust would be stopped. The procedure was to have two men run a string line up the mountain, each carrying a very large ball of string on their back. This was my job. We were separated by 30 feet. Within the string area three men were assigned to look for these plants. If they found any, they uprooted them, thereby killing the plant. There were about 150 men in the camp, and this was what was done to protect the white pine from blister rust.

After being at the blister rust camp for about three weeks we were summoned to a meeting. The ranger from the Roundtop district, about 30 miles away, needed a fire lookout for the Roundtop lookout. The ranger station here was a seasonal station due to it being in heavy snow country. The alternate ranger, Lloyd Donally, as I recollect, was soliciting help. When he was through speaking, he wanted to know if there were any volunteers in the group to go to a lookout. After knowing what he wanted I had to do some fast thinking. My inner being kind of pushed that idea aside, but the other side of me said "Go for it Phil". I wanted to be a forest ranger and many districts had lookouts on them.

"Come on Phil what's holding you back"? Sheepishly I raised my hand.

Lloyd selected me and told me to get my things from where I was staying, and we were ready to drive back to the Round Top ranger station I thought. Then I found out he was taking me directly to the lookout. This was taking place in the late afternoon, and I had not had anything to eat for a while. I wondered if we might be going to the ranger station where there was a small crew and a cook. I found out that was wishful thinking. So, there I was, unpacking the truck and putting all that in my new home. The lookout consisted of a small cabin with a dirt floor and a 12 by 12', 60-foot-tall tower. That was not the image I had in my mind as a lookout. The tower had a stool to sit on and an alidade.

Ranger Donally brought in three large boxes from his truck and placed them in the cabin. That would be all my food for a while. He left a paper covered cookbook in top of a box and said, "you are all set, I'll be back in the morning to help get you squared away". That was encouraging. I went through the boxes to see what all was there. There were several cans of fruit. My thought was that would be easy to open and would satisfy my hunger. So, I opened one of the cans of peaches. That was good. The cookbook indicated that the food supply should last 30 days. I needed to be prudent about how I was going to get 30 days of food from those boxes, so I stopped eating all the fruit from the cans as a full meal. Things started to even out where my food source was more manageable.

That first night on duty a storm passed through my area and that was a new experience. I didn't get a chance to read what Ranger Donally had asked me to read. He called the next morning and inquired about the storm. After a week on duty things started to settle down and I was feeling a little more comfortable on the job.

Water was furnished by someone from the ranger station every 4 or 5 days. That was helpful as I didn't have to pack water uphill. Since I was about a mile from the ranger station, I often walked down the station for supper provided by the cook. Whenever I left the lookout, I began to sing. Normally the wind was at my back and could be heard by people at the ranger station, but I was always told that you should make noise when walking alone in bear country. I think that information was employed to put a scare in me since I was from the big city. Years later I sang in the church choir and in a quartet. I had a great time singing the rest of my life.

The next summer I served as the lookout on the Daveggio Knob lookout watching over much of the Clearwater River drainage on the west side of the district. This area was more isolated, and I had to get my own water from a spring half a mile down the hill. Going down was no problem. Coming back up was a bearcat. In each hand I carried a canvas water bag holding about 2 gallons of water. I also carried a 5-gallon canvas water container. This all came to about 73 lbs. of water. That might be the reason I did not grow any taller! I used my water wisely. I saved left over water from washing my face and excess water from something I had just cooked. When I had enough water saved, I managed to wash my clothes. At that age I thought it was a pretty good idea. When I think about that now I think "where did I get that stupid idea?" That idea did not last very long after I saw the results. It was not one of the ways to save water.

As a lookout I was expected to put out nearby fires. I had a fire pack that contained a Pulaski, a file, rations for 3 days along with an aluminum container for water. Lightning hit a nearby tree, and I took off to put it out. The size of the tree was more than I could handle by myself. I expected help, but that did not come until morning, and I spent the night out there alone. This was not a good situation for a 16-year-old. This was before the Forest Service had safety regulations.

I told my mother about the food boxes that contained such things as canned butter, canned bread and cake. She never heard of anything like that, so she baked me

a couple loaves of bread and sent them out to me. Little did she know that it took a long time to mail anything from Milwaukee to the middle of Idaho. First it took several days on the train to reach Avery. Then the bread was stored until someone came from Round Top to pick up the mail. That was usually done once a week. By the time I got the bread it was more than 2 weeks old and moldy, so I had to pitch it. I never told Mom about this venture. But that is a mother's love.



Roundtop Ranger Station

The third year I came out west I was assigned to replace telephone lines to lookouts then clear trails with a helper named Sherman Weldon. He was from Hales Corner, a small town near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was an outdoor person and he dressed for it. He wore a cowboy hat, along with cut off pants and no shirt. That was about it. He carried a small pistol on his person. We were in bear country. I don't remember the caliber of the gun; it was so small that one could see the bullet coming from the gun when it was shot.

We were out clearing trails for over a month. DJ, the district packer, was to move our camp down river every couple of days. Ranger Donally told us before we left that we could stay in an old guard station during the last few days of trail work. One thing he emphasized before we left was to make sure that the shutters on the cabin windows were closed before we left for work each day.

While working on the trails Sherman served as the cook. He was frugal and didn't want to waste anything. Whatever we had for supper was part of breakfast the

next morning. Using some leftovers is OK, but one day we had lima beans for supper. Sure enough, we had lima beans for breakfast.

On one segment of trail work we failed to bring matches to start our cooking fires. Our boy scout training had taught us how to start a fire by knocking two rocks together. It worked. Our boy scout training paid off.

The first night sleeping in the cabin we were overrun by mice running over our sleeping bags as we slept. Not a pleasant feeling. Something had to be done to correct that situation. We found an old tin can that held about 5 gallons of water and designed a self-revolving mouse trap. We cut the top of the container off and installed a revolving flat piece of wood. Peanut butter was placed on both sides of the board. The idea was to have a balance on that piece of wood. If a mouse went for the peanut butter he would fall into the water and had no way of getting out. The piece of wood would revolve and reset for the next mouse. The first night we caught 14 mice. Having mice run over your sleeping bag all night long was not a pleasant experience.

One night we almost had a bear break into the cabin. We heard the window glass break, and we could see the bear's head as he readied to enter the cabin. That was scary. Our plan was to scare the bear if something like that should happen. Sherman and I had a sizeable metal wash tub under our beds filled with silverware. The idea was to rattle the tubs to scare the bear. If that attempt did not work, we had an alternate plan to head for the rafters above.

On another occasion after we finished our work for the day and were coming into view of the cabin, I noticed something unusual. There was a white trail that started at the cabin and was seen down the hill below us. When we got closer, I spotted the flour sack that the flour was coming from. That told me a bear got into the cabin and probably tried to get flour from the bag and got tangled up with the sack and drug it outside. He sure left a mess inside. Bears just don't have any respect. Now we had a bear problem to contend with. What did

Ranger Donally tell us before we left Round Top? "Be sure to close the shutters covering the windows before you leave the cabin for work". The story goes on. We apparently unknowingly had invited a bear to visit our cabin. Pay day is here, here are two high school students trying to outsmart a bear. Below the cabin was a deep hole that was dug some time ago that was used as a garbage pit. The hole was about 8 foot by 8 foot and about 8 foot deep. The plan was to get rid of the bear so we cut a number of 8-foot dry sticks with a sharp point pointing upwards. The sticks were placed in the hole about 2 feet apart. The top of the hole was covered with a couple of 10-foot-long young tree trunks. We covered the top of the small logs with evergreen branches. The idea was for a bear to walk on the green foliage then fall into the pit. The pit was baited with some chunks of outdated meat.

As we were sitting on the front porch a day or two later, we spotted a bear walking around the pit. Apparently, it had smelled the meat in the pit and decided it was for him. As we watched, he slid into the pit very carefully and was rewarded with a chunk of old meat in its mouth as it just climbed out of the pit. Before he slid into the pit, he pushed some of the larger trees supporting the cover out of the way with ease. I am not sure what might have happened if the bear had tried to walk on the branches. Well, that was the intelligence of two young Forest Service employees at that time.

The next day our trail maintenance project was complete. DJ was there with his pack string, and we headed back to the ranger station. It is hard to believe this all started when I was a junior in Pulaski High School in Milwaukee Wisconsin in 1945.

Phil went on to be a district ranger on several forests in Montana and retired from the R.O. in 1988. He lives in Polson MT.



BOOK REVIEWS



When Money Grew on Trees, A.B. Hammond and the Age of the Timber Baron by Greg Gordon.

This book is the story of Andrew Benoni Hammond, from his days as a young lumber jack in Maine in the mid-1800s through his years in Montana, out to the Puget Sound and down to northern California. Hammond “transformed the forests of the west from functioning ecosystems into industrial landscapes..... converting the public domain into industrial landscapes”. A considerable part of his career was spent in Montana. He built the Bonner mill on the Blackfoot River and the Missoula and Bitterroot Valley Railroad. Hammond had many business interests in Missoula including the Missoula Mercantile, First National Bank, Florence Hotel and the Hammond building.

A good read if you are interested in natural resources history. It gives a good insight into environmental, labor and business history. Includes lots of good photos.



The Age of Wood: Our Most Useful Material and the Construction of Civilization by Roland Ennos.

This book covers some aspects of wood that we generally, do not think much about starting with the chapter “Our Arboreal Inheritance” and goes on to primates coming down from the trees and making tools.



Winter Logging, 1911

It touches on the transition from hunter gatherers to agriculture and the changes in the landscape which that brought forth, also the role of wood in smelting. It covers the role of wood in the industrial era and on into modern times. The final chapters consider the impacts of the use of wood, from tree plantations and pests, from deforestation to how the exploitation of trees and forests has affected the ecology of our whole planet. This book is an easy read and even for those who have been involved in the timber and wood products industries there will be some moments of “huh, never thought of that aspect”

Membership renewal forms for 2022 will be sent out after the end of year holiday season.



FROM THE MUSEUM, REGION ONE INFORMATION

by Ed Levert R-1 Director

I'm pleased to report that the National Museum of Forest Service History now has an oral historian on the staff. James Wall brings an impressive resume of education and experience to his new job. Unfortunately, James has the entire country to cover so he will need to carefully prioritize who and what he interviews. James certainly recognizes the enormity of need to do oral interviews, but there are certain professional standards that must be met. To help James free up time to do more interviews, volunteers are requested to help with transcription of interviews from audio files. We don't want to lose another retiree like Sonny Stiger without capturing their story and the more help James can receive for transcription processing, the more interviews he can do. In the meantime, we need to build a list of important events and retirees who we believe should have their story told. You can help with this task by contacting me at televert@kvis.net.

In addition to the oral history collection, the Museum's new Oral Historian will also be creating a

database of the oral histories already collected throughout the US. The goal of this project is to produce an easily searchable database for interviews conducted across all institutions.

James will also be working with the Museums' Oral history Committee to develop yearly annual projects, similar to the Higgins Ridge Project in 2019.

On another note, we now have all the National Forests in R-1 represented by a cadre member, except for the Lolo. Nez Perce-Clearwater-Cindy Schacher; Custer & Dakota Grasslands-Curt Glasoe & Dave Pieper; Helena-Lewis & Clark-Jack Troyer & Jane Kollmeyer; Beaverhead-Deerlodge- Dan Pence; Idaho Panhandle-Gary Rahm; Gallatin-Dick Rath; Flathead-Bill Swope; Kootenai-Bob Castaneda; R-1 Retirees-Vicky MacLean; Bitterroot-Mary Williams. Please contact your representative with suggestions or questions. Make sure you visit the FS Museum website at <https://forestservicemuseum.org> and become a member.

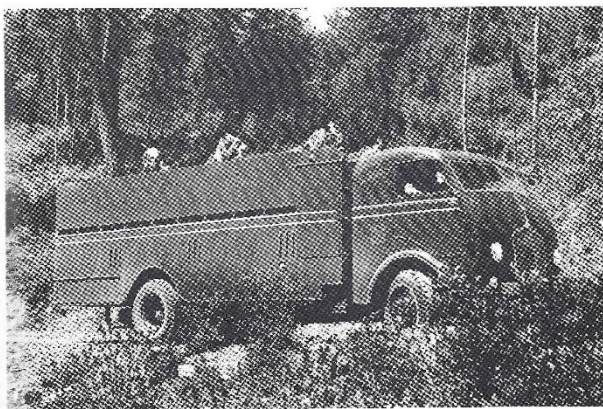
Reminder – if this gets to you on time – The Museum will again be hosting an old-fashioned Christmas at the Museum site – Saturday November 27 from noon until 3:00. Great fun for families and kids. Volunteers needed, call the museum if you can help.

RESTORING THE KENWORTH MULE HAULER

by Patty Bates

In 1930's the Forest Service needed a faster way to get firefighting gear and support into the backcountry. Forest Service standards called for a "Mule Hauler" that could transport everything needed for a 25-man firefighting outfit. This would include 9 mules, the packer's riding horses, all the pack saddles along with the firefighting gear.

Kenworth answered the call with Model No. 521 built in 1938. The customized cab-over dual axle, 10-wheel, cab-over was designed on a Greyhound bus frame to provide a heavier truck body designed for carrying pack strings. The shorter wheelbase allowed it to negotiate sharp turns. The mule hauler was powered by a 225-horsepower gasoline engine. It was advertised with a top highway speed of 70 miles per hour and 30 miles a hour on 6 percent forest road grades. With no power steering, a heavy load, steep narrow mountain roads and a gas engine that got 3 miles per gallon, driving was still challenging.



Mule hauler in route to a fire.

Stock and gear were loaded and unloaded on a ramp that was stored under the bed. Large trailers with the same carrying capacity would be pulled behind, allowing the mule haulers to deliver two pack strings at a time. Mules were outfitted with goggles for their open-air ride. Smaller trucks were used to haul half a string

or to shuttle once the mule hauler couldn't travel any further. There were only 5 of these specialized trucks built, but they found work across the northern Rockies and traveled as far as to California wildfires.



Mule hauler at Mammoth.

When firefighting evolved with heavy equipment and aircraft, use of the mule haulers came to an end; they were last used by the Forest Service in 1954. Friends of Ninemile (FON) was able to track down the very first mule hauler rusting away in a rancher's field near Dixon in 2004. The truck was rescued from where it had sat for 25 years and was transported to the Ninemile Remount Depot. FON has acquired and installed replacement tires and rims, but so much more work is needed to restore this valuable piece of Forest Service history. The goal of our efforts is to eventually have the Mule Hauler be a featured part of the Forest Service history.

The Friends of Nine Mile organization is dedicated to preserving the history of the Ninemile Ranger Station and Remount Depot, and to providing interpretive, education and informational materials as well as maintenance and restoration services. Managed by a volunteer committee, FON is an affiliate organization of the National Museum of Forest Service History.



The mule hauler sits at Ninemile Remount Depot awaiting restoration.

FON depends on memberships, volunteers, and sales at the Visitor Center to continue their work. If you would like more information about the Friends of Ninemile, or to help with the Mule Hauler restoration work, please email hafenbates91@gmail.com.

Patty started her career as a seasonal fire fighter and fuels technician with the BLM and Humbolt National Forest. She worked mostly in range and wildlife with positions on the Los Padres, Sequoia, Targhee. She was District Ranger on the Salmon Challis, Staff Officer on the B-D and acting Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Stanislaus. Patty is retired and lives in Sheridan Montana.



THE ROAD CREW FOREMAN OR KING OF HIS CASTLE

by Vicky MacLean

When I arrived on the Helena District in 1988 the road crew and the district fleet were presided over by Don Farrell a crusty guy of undetermined age, skinny, always with a cigarette in his mouth as I remember. His castle was the road shop which was a place that no person on the district except the road crew would go into unless it was totally necessary. It was smoke filled and there were girlie pictures all over the walls! Really, this would not fly these days, but pretty much nobody crossed Don. It was known that he did not like the “women folk” and probably believed they should not be working at the district except, perhaps, as the receptionist. Don administered all the vehicle tests and when I needed to take my test for hauling the horse trailer my boss told me that Don probably would not pass me on the first try, but to not feel bad, I could just try again. Great for

my confidence as I did not like to haul the trailer, was scared to drive it through town, and was always worried that I would get to a trail head and not be able to turn it around. The trailer was a beat up old 4 horse gooseneck trailer that, except for being Forest Service green, could have passed as any old rancher’s trailer. Miracle of miracles I passed!

Another memory of Don was some time later when the S.O. had a fancy new 4 horse slant trailer with tack room up front. This, along with a multitude of horses, dated from the days of the great horse scandal of the late 1980s. Don kept control of the keys for that trailer. One Monday morning I needed the saddles that had been left locked in the S.O. trailer tack room by Forest Supervisor Ernie Nunn at the end of the previous week.

The trailer was locked up and Don refused to unlock it for me to retrieve the saddles. It made no difference to him that those were the district saddles. What to do? The ranger was gone, and Don was not going to give in. It was not the district trailer, and he would not let me into it. I headed over to the office to find whoever was the senior member of the staff who was in that morning. I found Chuck Neal, the Resource Assistant who I told

my story to. Chuck strode over to the road shop with determination, with me following a step behind him wondering what would happen. Who would win? Would someone hit someone? Chuck opened the door to the shop and ordered Don to let me into the trailer or he would “open the tack room door with a crowbar!”. End of problem!

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF MOOSE CREEK RANGER STATION

by Cindy Schacher

Moose Creek Ranger Station is located in the heart of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness at the confluence of Moose Creek and the Selway River. Its beautiful log buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and have played an integral part in the history of the Moose Creek Ranger District and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. This unique ranger station has been vital to the back country management of the area since 1921.

The actions that resulted in the establishment of the Moose Creek Ranger Station began in 1891 when Congress authorized the President to withdraw public lands and create forest reserves. The Bitter Root Forest Reserve, within the boundary of which the Moose Creek Ranger Station was located, was one of the earliest of 12 reserves nationally. In 1907 the

Forest Reserves were changed to National Forests and in 1908 the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests were established.

The first assignment given to the rangers of the Bitter Root Forest Reserve was to select desirable administrative sites. Ranger Stations were to be reasonably accessible to the forests and to the settlements, to have ample horse feed, a good water supply and be situated on either flat land or land with a gentle slope. In order to locate administrative sites, trails had to be opened up to gain access to the remote backcountry. The long, painstaking work of

constructing the Selway River trail to the Moose Creek area began in 1907.



Moose Creek Ranger Station, 1933 or 1934.

The large flat on which the present-day ranger station exists was an ideal spot for an administrative site. The ranger station was specifically constructed to accommodate crews for trail and phone line maintenance and also for the important task of the Forest Service at the time, fire protection.

Ranger Jack Parsell built the first cabin at the station in 1921. He and his new bride Julia occupied the "honeymoon" cabin now known as the cookhouse/office. Over the next few years, the ranger station expanded to accommodate the larger crews that worked in the area. All the buildings were built using local materials and blend in with the rugged

wilderness setting. Materials that could not be obtained locally were either packed in by mule or flown to the site. One of these items was a cast iron tub packed in by mules over 27 miles of treacherous trail along the Selway River.

The ranger station was designated early as a training center. In 1923 Forest Service personnel taught employees how to become smokechasers and lookouts. They learned to orient and read a contour map, use an azimuth circle and alidade, run a compass line, pace distances, and how to put out forest fires.

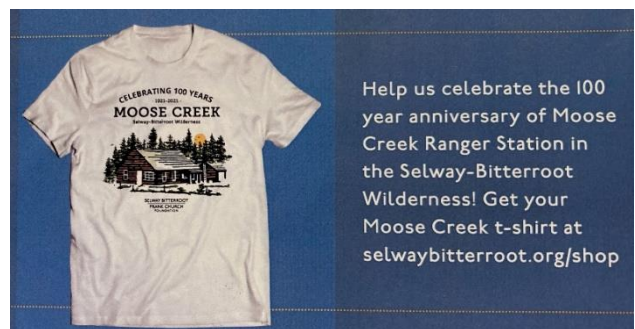
In 1931 the short runway was constructed with muscle power, mules, and a little dynamite when back country flying was in its infancy. Construction of the long airstrip began in 1957 and was completed in 1958. One of the first Forest Service smokejumper bases was established at Moose Creek in 1940. It was from this base that the first and now historic smoke jump was made by the Forest Service.

This year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Moose Creek Ranger Station and its

rich history. You can learn more about the history of the ranger station and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness by visiting the [Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests History and Culture web page](#) and an article in the Lewiston Tribune, “[Summer on the Selway.](#)”

You can also purchase a great Moose Creek Tee shirt at selwaybitterroot.org/shop.

Cindy is the archaeologist for the Moose Creek and Lochsa-Powell Districts. She is the daughter of Art Seamans who held several District Ranger positions on the Nez Perce Forest.



VOLUNTEER PROJECTS WITH THE FOREST SERVICE

Forest Service folks are generally energetic and active people. Many retirees say they are busier now that they are retired than they were when they were still working. Volunteer (and some paid) opportunities abound, from helping out with local district projects to involvement with one of several regional or national organizations that provide a variety of projects that may appeal to your interests and also provide the opportunity to work with other FS retirees and current employees. Following is information on some opportunities

Passport in Time (PIT)

<http://www.passportintime.com>

"The goal of PIT is to preserve the nation's past with the help of the public. As a PIT volunteer, you



Volunteers on Big Hole Peak Lookout PIT Project, 2016, Lolo National Forest.

contribute to vital environmental and historical research on public lands. Your participation helps us not only to protect and conserve the sites, memories, and objects that chronicle our collective past, but also to understand the human story in North America and ensure that story is told to our children and grandchildren.”

These projects span a variety of endeavors from archaeological digs to historic preservation work on old Forest Service lookouts and administrative sites. Locations may be remote with camping required or more civilized, with Forest Service facilities to stay in. I

worked on one project that was just over the hill from my house and another one where all our gear was packed in by a back country horseman’s group and we had a great camp cook, a retired FS engineer. All the volunteers but one on that project were Forest Service retirees. Camaraderie was great and a lot of work was accomplished. Here in the Northern Region, we are fortunate to be home to the Forest Service’s Historic Preservation team which is involved with many of these PIT projects. Connecting with the forest archaeologists may also provide some opportunities to work on a local project.



TRAILS RESTORATION & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM SPECIALISTS (TRAMPS)

A National Smokejumper Association Program

By Fred Cooper

In 1999, Art Jukkala started a volunteer program with folks who were at one time smokejumpers. Art, himself a smokejumper in the late 1950s, had recently retired from a career devoted to fire science with the Missoula Technical and Development Center. Art started the program with two crews doing maintenance on trails in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Tragically, Art died of a heart attack on one of those projects.

Since 1999, the TRAMPS program has expanded with week-long projects every summer for the last 22 years with the number of projects ranging from 15 to 20 each year between April and October. While the program started in Montana, it has since had projects in every western state plus New York and West Virginia in the east. The program has expanded

beyond trails projects for the Forest Service with volunteers now doing structure maintenance and restoration, as well as volunteering with the National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, and for state and local community parks. TRAMPS are now not only ex-smokejumpers, but also interested individuals (associates) who want to volunteer with the smokejumpers. Often, half of a crew’s volunteers are associates and anyone interested is encouraged to participate. Volunteers work under a formal Volunteer Agreement with a federal agency covering them for workmen’s compensation and tort claims.

In 2021, there were 15 projects in Montana, Idaho, California, Oregon, and New Mexico. The Montana projects were on the Idaho Panhandle, Nez Perce-Clearwater, Bitterroot, Lolo, and Beaverhead-

Deerlodge National Forests. Project tasks included trail, structure, and campground maintenance and setting up and removing tent camps in the spring and fall for youth campouts. Five of the projects were in wilderness areas and two near entrances to wilderness areas. Donated services totaled 90 workweeks of

“boots on the ground” volunteer time this year valued at over \$1000,000.

Contact Fred Cooper at frederi920@aol.com if you or you know of anyone interested in participating on a crew in the future.



TRAMP's volunteers on Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. (Left to right - Richard Trinity, Jeff Kinderman, Jack Atkins, Bill Kolar, Rod McIver, and Tom Blunn, camp cook who kept the crew well-nourished).

PUT YOUR EXPERIENCE TO WORK!

Apply your skills, mentor new employees, and support the mission of the Forest Service

Background

The Forest Service (FS) Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) program was authorized by the Farm Bill (Agriculture Act of 2014, amended in 2018). It allows the Forest Service to partner with the National Older Career Center (NOWCC) to hire people that are at least 55 years of age who have specific skills that can serve to temporarily fill skill

ACES PROGRAM

gaps in the workforce or to mentor and train new employees.

NOWCC delivers the ACES program for the Forest Service, under a Master Agreement that began in 2018 and runs through March 15, 2023.

NOWCC has supported and provided experienced workers in the Federal workforce for nearly 25 years; it started working with the Environmental Protection

Agency in 1997. The program provides administrative support to the ACES program for agreement

development, recruiting, hiring, and managing enrollee pay.

These information bullets are for those of you who have retired and for those who are about to retire and want to know more about being an ACES enrollee:

- For those that are FS retirees, ACES wages will not impact your CSRS retirement annuity. However, if you have a FERS Supplement, there may be impacts to that supplement if you exceed the annual earnings threshold that is set by the Social Security Administration.
- ACES is open to anyone who is at least 55 years of age and who meet the requirements of the position and eligibility to work in the United States. It is NOT limited to Forest Service Retirees or retirees of other federal agencies. A retiree may begin work as an ACES enrollee immediately upon retirement, there is no waiting period.
- All enrollees receive a program orientation and are supported by NOWCC staff. The FS monitor (or supervisor) will provide office space, security clearance, access to the FS computer and system, as well as use of government vehicles, if required to perform the work.
- Enrollees are not employees of the Federal Government nor are they employees of NOWCC. They are participants in a grant funded program. For the purpose of obtaining computer and security access enrollees are considered Forest Service “affiliates”.
- Pay is determined based on a sliding scale of an hourly wage. Hourly wage is determined based on the position and the qualifications needed to fill that position.

Level I: \$15.00 to \$24.99/ hour	Level II: \$25.00 to \$34.99/ hour
Level III: \$35.00 to \$49.99/ hour	Level IV: \$50.00 to \$80.00/ hour

- Schedules are flexible and can range from part-time to full-time. Enrollees may be field going, work from an office setting or work virtually, depending on the position’s needs, as outlined in the ACES position description.
- A Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) is the document that provides support for an ACES enrollee. An ACES position description, a statement of work, a cost analysis (budget), approval of funding and coordination with G&A and a line officer’s approval are all required to launch an ACES SPA.

Contact the National Older Worker Career Center (NOWCC), to learn more:

- Rhyneta Fleming, NOWCC ACES Program Manager at rfleming@nowcc.org
- NOWCC ACES Recruiters at: Acesrecruiters@nowcc.org
- Becki Heath, Program Development Consultant at: bheath@nowcc.org
- Visit www.nowcc.org or call NOWCC at (571) 451-0251
- Here is a link for a [general application](#)



RED SLEIGHS OVER MONTANA



Mr. and Mrs. Santa get ready to head out in their Cessna.

In 2020, the Museum of Mountain Flying in Missoula (where Missoula area retirees had our lunch meetings all last winter) started the Red Sleighs over Montana project. The organizers collected donations of toys and needed items for about 1000 children in rural Montana communities. 14 volunteer Santa pilots flew into about 20 rural communities in western Montana. This year the project volunteers plan to pack up the loads and be ready to fly out on the 15th of December.

People are needed to help with shopping and packing up loads for each destination. For information about volunteering, donating toys or money contact Pat Collins at (406) 396-0755 or Kathi Olson at (406) 544-7359.



Santas gather for a preflight briefing at Minuteman Aviation;

Check out Red Sleighs over Montana on Facebook for information and pictures from last year's project.



(At left) Preparing the tree cooler for storing trees at the Lincoln District, Helena National Forest.



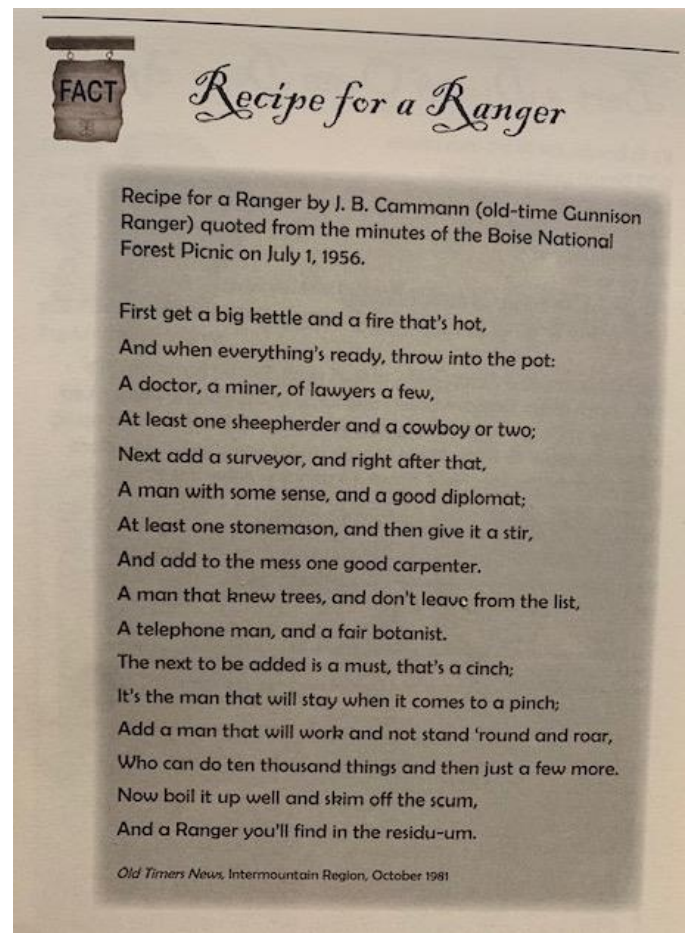
SMOKEJUMPERS: CIA CLANDESTINE WEAPON IN AMERICA'S SECRET WARS

Beginning in 1951, the CIA began to hire smokejumpers for its unconventional war operations, employing at least 115 during the Cold War. Smokejumpers are those men and women in the northwestern U.S. who jump from planes to battle fire. Why did the CIA hire smokejumpers? What operations did they execute? Where were they deployed? How did the CIA first find smokejumpers? Dr. Paul T. Carter in this 48-minute video “Smokejumpers: CIA Clandestine Weapon in America’s Secret Wars” provides the answers with this fascinating, action-packed non-monetized video with interviews, old film footage, war scenes, declassified documents, rare photos, and more at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0PILyzX_K0



*Snowbird delivering mail near Elliston, MT,
Helena National Forest.*



Obituary information – More information can be found by googling names. Notices here have been edited for space. Spouses of Forest Service retirees will just be listed.

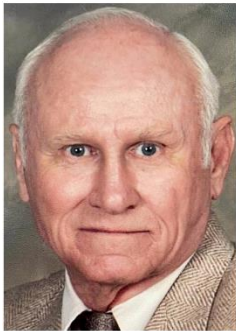


WE REMEMBER



Roberta Ann “Bobbie” Bartlette – Roberta Anne Bartlette of Lolo passed away September 11, 2021, due to complications of COVID. Bobbie was born in Hayward California November 3, 1949, and grew up in Missoula from the age of 4 where she spent weekends exploring, hunting, fishing, camping and square dancing. She began her Forest Service career in 1968 working seasonally at the Forest Sciences lab in Missoula while attending the U of M. She studied the physical and chemical parameters of forest and rangeland fuels and fire behavior and taught fire behavior and prediction to land and fire managers. Bobbie retired in 2007 then worked as a contractor until 2010. Bobbie became involved with the Lolo Watershed Group which she was president of from 2008 to 2016. Outside of the art and science of fire and water Bobbie was involved in square and round dancing, and with her late husband, Barry, operated a square dance center and campground along Lolo Creek.

Bobbie was preceded in death by her parents, Ray and Afton Granger of Lolo and her husband Barry. She is survived by her blended family of four adult children, two grandchildren and a brother. Services will be scheduled in the spring or summer of 2022.



Gerald L. “Jerry” Curnes – passed away August 12, 2021. He was born January 29, 1935, on the kitchen table at the family home in Iowa to parents Clarence and Leta. In 1954 he moved to Moscow, Idaho to attend the University of Idaho where he majored in forest management and was in the Navy ROTC program. In 1958 he joined the Navy and served as operation officer on the USS Embattle. In 1960 he returned to civilian life and began a 61-year marriage to Karrylle and a 35-year career with the Forest Service. They lived in various communities in northern Idaho and western Montana while he worked timber management and fire. Later he worked in Lands. In retirement Jerry and Karrylle moved back to Moscow where he worked part time for the school district. Jerry is survived by his wife and three children and their partners.



Orval “Bill” Gastineau Jr – passed away June 13, 2021. He was born in Sandpoint Idaho June 15, 1942, to Orval Gastineau Sr and Lois Gillam Gastineau. He attended Idaho State University where he played basketball and graduated from University of Montana with a forestry degree. His first job was as a lookout for the state of Idaho then he joined the Forest Service in fire control and was a smokejumper out of Missoula. He worked at the Fire Lab and the Bitterroot and Lolo Forests as well as the Regional offices in Missoula and San Francisco. In 1988 he transferred to the Washington office where he worked until his retirement in 1996. He returned to Missoula in 1999 and enjoyed rafting, camping, coaching, softball, and gardening. He was an

avid Grizz fan. Bill is survived by Donna, his wife of 47 years, 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren, and a sister. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, and stepmother.



Alice Elaine Gilbert – passed away August 28, 2021, in Helena MT. Alice was the wife of Sam Gilbert who she married in Eureka MT in 1975. Sam retired from the Helena National Forest.



James L. “Jim” Hagemeyer - was born November 26 1937 in Burlington, Iowa and passed away in Missoula April 23rd 2021. He spent his youth roaming in the forests and doing farm work on relatives’ farms. He attended Iowa State University and received a degree in landscape architecture. He joined the Forest Service as a summer firefighter and was a smoke jumper in Missoula in 1957 and 1958. He went on to become one of the first landscape architects in the Forest Service working in five states over three decades. He was a district ranger in Dillon Colorado and. Jim eventually came to the regional office in Missoula as the regional director of planning. He retired in 1994 and continued to enjoy the out of doors, skiing, hunting, fishing, and biking. He wrote his memoir ‘Saving Trappers Lake.’

Jim is survived by his wife Gretchen, children Heidi and Andrew and their spouses, a granddaughter and two sisters.

John T. Hamilton – passed away July 3, 2021, in Missoula. He was born April 28, 1953, in Missoula to Don and Betty Hamilton. He was a lifetime outdoorsman enjoying hunting fishing hiking and canoeing. He pursued his interest in history at Eastern Montana, Western Montana and completed his degree at Utah State University. John later received a degree in anthropology and archaeology at the University of Montana. His career took him to forests in Wyoming, California, Nevada, Montana, and Idaho. He retired from the Bitterroot Forest in 2008.

In 2008 John was married to Robin Clearman who survives him along with two stepdaughters and six grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother and sister and a beloved niece.



Tim Hart – a smoke jumper with the West Yellowstone Smokejumpers died on June 2, 2021, from a hard landing while fighting a wildfire in New Mexico. He was 36 years old. Tim had spent his career in fire in California, Wyoming, and Idaho. He spent time on Hotshot crews for the Forest Service and BLM. He joined the smokejumper program in Grangeville Idaho in 2016 then at West Yellowstone as a squad leader and spotter.

Tim is survived by his wife Michelle and his mother.



Ron Hendrickson – passed away on a smoky, red sky afternoon July 26, 2021, in Missoula. He was born November 19, 1934, to Arthur and Anna Hendrickson on the family homestead on Sweeney Creek in Florence MT. He joined the army in 1954. In 1955 Ron married Betty Kuney and soon moved to Iowa to join family in the lumber mill and truss manufacturing business. Missing the mountains of western Montana, they moved back. Ron started his Forest Service career in 1959 on the Lolo Forest. He eventually became a dispatcher for the Lolo and eventually worked his way up to Regional Fire Coordinator for Region 1. After his 30-year Forest Service career Ron worked various airways, retiring for the second time from Black Hills Aviation, now known as Neptune Aviation Services.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, stepparents, and three siblings. He is survived by his son Randy and daughter Tamara as well as four grandchildren and two great grandchildren, numerous relatives, and friends.



John M. Hughes - passed away September 23, 2021, in Polson Montana. John was born September 11, 1938, in New Mexico and spent his first 2 years living in a lumber camp near Jemez Pueblo. The family moved to California where John graduated from high school and then went to work in the family business, Hughes Brothers Lumber Company. There he married his high school sweetheart, Sharon Stewart. With her encouragement he went back to school at Boise State University then at Moscow Idaho to attend the University of Idaho. He later attended Colorado State University to study Wildland Management. He started with the Forest Service in 1963 and moved to Forks Washington.

John and his family moved to various districts and staff assignments, mostly in Oregon where he held several District Ranger positions and was Regional Silviculturist for the Pacific Northwest Region. Time in Alaska and the Washington Office followed. His last assignment was at the Regional Office in Missoula from where he retired in 1996. After retirement he managed the family tree farm in Foresthill California. Sharon passed away in 2000 and John remarried in 2002 to Linda Kohler with whom he enjoyed many adventures.

John enjoyed the out of doors with his family, including hiking, camping, hunting golfing and boating. He loved baseball, dogs, horses, kids, and Makers Mark. John is survived by his wife Linda, his 4 children, 4 grandchildren and his sister.



Dennis Patrick Malone “Denny” - of Seeley Lake passed away October 23, 2021. He was born April 13, 1940, in Missoula Montana, the son of Michael and Florence Malone. Denny grew up in Missoula, graduated from Loyola High School and served in the National Guard there from 1962 - 1968. His family spent time in the Seeley-Swan Valley fishing, exploring, and camping. Denny began his career as a forestry Technician on the Seeley Lake Ranger District on the Lolo National Forest in 1961. He did timber measurement, sale administration and scaling. He worked on the restoration of the Morrell Mountain Lookout. Denny traveled all over to help manage wildland fire crews. He retired in 1997 after 37 years with the Forest Service. Denny was proud of his Irish heritage, was an accomplished cook, loved reading and gathering firewood.

Denny is survived by his wife of 51 years, Joan, daughters Tracy, Kelly, and Debbie, 8 grandchildren and one great-grandson, and numerous other relatives.

Sandy Wiser Marquis – of Pahrump Nevada passed away September 12, 2021, at the age of 61. Sandy grew up on Billings Montana. She retired from the Big Horn Forest in Region 2 in 2015 after 37 years with the Forest Service. She spent time on the Deerlodge, Gallatin, Helena, and Custer Forests in Region 1, as well as time at the Mount Hood Forest and the Regional office in Missoula. Sandy is survived by her husband David and son, Max.



Dallas Summerfield – of Florence Montana passed away August 25, 2021, at the age of seventy-seven. He was born into a coal mining family in West Virginia and after high school graduation was accepted into the NASA apprentice school. He also served in the Army and Coast Guard Reserves. In 1977 he left NASA and moved his family to Montana to provide a life away from the big city. There he joined the Forest Service where he spent his career as a contracting officer.

Dallas and his wife Karen raised two children and had been married 55 years when he passed away. He enjoyed baseball, fishing, hunting, camping, and backpacking. He was a craftsman who enjoyed building fine furniture. He is survived by his wife, his two children, three grandchildren and three brothers.

Richard M. “Dick” Venable - a lifetime resident of Montana, passed away July 15, 2021. He was born in Anaconda



and grew up in Miles City. After high school in Miles City, he attended college in Bozeman for a year then worked a number of jobs. After that he joined the 934th Engineer Aviation Unit, a group of reserve Army engineers. He met and married Norma Hertz while attending the University of Montana where he graduated from with a degree in forest economics. Dick started his Forest Service career in Seeley Lake followed by assignments on the Lolo, Darby, West Fork and Philipsburg. In 1980 he transferred to a management position in Missoula. He retired from the Forest Service March of 1984 after serving for 34 years. Dick was involved in several organizations including the Elks, Masons and Presbyterian Church. He enjoyed Grizz football, woodworking, music, painting, reading, writing, gardening and more. His memoir “The Cross-eyed kid from

Cottonwood Creek” describes his years in eastern Montana and Korea.

Dick was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Norma. He is survived by his beloved feline companion, Eddie, a brother, four daughters, five grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

John Ulrich – passed away July 18, 2021, at the age of ninety-one. He was born March 11, 1939, to John and Arveta Ulrich. John was a graduate of West Virginia University and served in the Army from 1950 to 1952. He had a long career in the forest industry working on the Flathead, Nez Perce, Kootenai, and Clearwater Forests as well as Stoltze Land and Lumber until his retirement in 1986. His career started on a blister rust crew out of Libby, He was an assistant ranger then district ranger at Fenn. He was timber staff on the Flathead. John was a member of the Montana Tree Farmer organization since 1970 and loved logging, thinning, cutting boughs, Christmas trees and firewood until his passing. John is survived by his wife Joan, four children, 10 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Northern Rocky Mountain Retiree Association

P.O. Box 3215
Missoula, Montana 59806



Dog trainers at Camp Rimini on the Helena National Forest where 1,000 sled dogs and pack dogs trained for the war.