

The Thursday R6 Update

Man of the Year

Umatilla National Forest District Ranger Tom Mafera received South Morrow County's 2009 Man of the Year Award at the January 14 Town and Country Event for the community of Heppner. "Tom was recognized for his contributions to the Heppner community during his time as District Ranger," says Forest Supervisor Kevin Martin.

"Tom embodies public service," says Martin, citing a long list of projects including the Smart/Hero Program, Community Firewood, Fire and Fuels Career Camp, Bikeways, Lions Club, SOLV, Heppner Chamber Board, Heppner Fair and Rodeo, St. Patrick's Day book sale for Heppner Library District, Cycle Oregon and many other community events. "All are evidence of Tom's indefatigable participation and the huge impact he has made on this community, the District and the Forest," adds Martin.



Tom Mafera, Heppner District Ranger, South Morrow County Man of the Year

Mafera has been seen just about everywhere during his tenure at Heppner... as a volunteer at every major community function, Mustang Mop-Up, SOLV Cleanup, St. Patrick's Day, at the Fair and Rodeo,

and at Heppner Days working with the many organizations to which he belongs including the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, the Heppner Lions and Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group.

He is noted for working with youth, from personally volunteering at the local elementary reading program to his dedication to the Fire and Fuels Career Camp for county high school students.



Mafera shares a good book with a friend

He also arranged for a community exchange of books between the Prineville Friends of the Library and Heppner Friends of the Library so that last year, four pickup truck loads of books were delivered to Heppner in time for a very successful St. Patrick's Day book sale and fund raiser.

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Tom loves bike riding and has successfully combines this passion with his commitment to service, whether it's riding to raise money for children with cancer, coordinating a Cycle Oregon visit to Heppner, or working to establish a bikeway for his community.

He and his employees are also known for their annual community firewood project. Over the past few years, District employees, their families and retirees joined community members to split and deliver more than 60 cords of firewood to families in need.

The 2009 Man of the Year award was presented to Mafera on the evening before his last day as Heppner District Ranger and celebrates five years of community service. Mafera recently began his new position as Vegetation Management Staff Officer for the Deschutes National Forest.

Moving around

Janet Valle is detailing as Deputy Forest Supervisor of Rogue River-Siskiyou NF effective February 14, 2010.

Well-Read Natural Resource Manager

Research summaries by Robyn Darbyshire. See 1/28 document, attached.

Cooperation Gets It Done": Social Capital in Natural Resources Management.

The study findings expand on the current understanding of social capital and suggest ways researchers might approach future studies of social capital in similar settings. The findings have natural resource management implications, including ways of focusing management, increasing public involvement, and facilitating communication approaches.

Barred owl space use and habitat selection in the eastern Cascades,

Washington. In comparison to published information on northern spotted owls, barred owls used areas with similar canopy closure and tree size classes, but barred owl home ranges were much smaller and more concentrated on gentler slopes in valley bottoms.

This information may contribute to the development of management practices that maintain forest characteristics appropriate for spotted owl habitat and prey in areas where spotted owls are least likely to be excluded by territorial barred owls in the Eastern Cascades of Washington.

Biodiversity losses and ecosystem function in freshwaters. Six conclusions have emerged from recent research that complicate the ability to predict how biodiversity losses may affect ecosystem function:

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- (1) species traits determine ecosystem function,
- (2) species within functional groups are not always ecological equivalents,
- (3) biodiversity losses include declines in the abundance of common species,
- (4) biodiversity losses affect whole food webs,
- (5) the effects of biodiversity losses depend on abiotic and biotic context and spatial and temporal scales, and
- (6) successfully predicting linkages between biodiversity and ecosystem function requires using multiple empirical approaches across scales.

Nutrient recycling by freshwater mussel communities illustrates these conclusions. Nutrient excretion rates depend on the expression of mussel species traits, which vary with flow, temperature, and community structure.

Nutrient contributions from mussels depend on which mussel species are dominant, but common species of mussels are declining, leading to shifts in species dominance patterns and thus nutrient recycling. These changes are very likely affecting the rest of the benthic food web because mussel excretion stimulates primary, and subsequently secondary, production.

Aerial photography: a rapidly evolving tool for ecological management. First, we discuss the benefits and challenges of using aerial photographs for ecological management. We then examine the eight fundamental characteristics used in photograph interpretation and discuss their ecological relevance. Third, we investigate the feasibility of digital-analysis methods (often used for analysis of satellite imagery) for providing more objective, consistent, and cost-effective results. We end with several examples of how the unique information from aerial photographs can aid in solutions to emerging challenges in ecological research and management, and how they may be further used with supplementary data sets.

Assessing the threat posed by indigenous exotics: a case study of two North American bark beetle species. The Douglas-fir beetle, *Dendroctonus pseudotsugae*, was detected in 2001 in northern Minnesota outside its natural range and the range of its native hosts, Douglas-fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, and western larch, *Larix occidentalis*. Consecutive years of detection indicated that *D. pseudotsugae* may have been established in a new environment and provided a possible example of an indigenous exotic species in North America.

At the races in the woods

Walt Haring Snopark was the staging point for the 16th Annual Chemult Sled Dog Races on Saturday, Jan. 16 and Sunday, Jan 17. The event, a permitted activity on Fremont-Winema National Forest featured sled dog racing and skijoring (a skiing event involving 1-2 dogs). Kids'

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events on Sunday included a chance to take a short trip on a sled pulled by a single dog, and a snowman building contest.

A free shuttle van from Chemult helped alleviate parking at the site. Watchers were encouraged to post themselves along the route on snowshoes or cross country skis. A traditional Musher's Banquet complete with entertainment from the Old Time Fiddlers and a raffle was held at the Chemult Fire Hall, sponsored by the Chemult Rural Fire Protection District to benefit the local volunteer fire department and ambulance service. The awards ceremony took place after the last race on Sunday.

Business Operations Honors!

MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATION AWARD. Region 6 – Umatilla National Forest Fire and Fuels Career Camp. This group established a Fire and Fuels Career Camp to provide educational and technical tools as well as hands-on experiences for high school students from diverse backgrounds. The group very effectively leveraged resources through a partnership with six other national forests, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Bureau of Land Management and others. Group members honored are Kristen L. Marshall, William T. Schlaich, Jimmie L. Turner, William Aney, Dale R. Boyd, Derral J. Thomas, Marcia M. Kemp, Brian Spradlin, Thomas E. Mafera, and Kevin D. Martin.

SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS AWARDS. REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT. Region 6, Region 10 and Pacific Northwest Research Station This group award is given for executing the Sustainable Operations Summit. This project clearly demonstrates innovative and creative approaches to successful environmental footprint reduction by connecting 90 sites and over 600 people to lectures, training, webinars, poster sessions and dialogue focused on agency-wide sustainable operations efforts. Group members honored are Mary Wagner, KJ Silverman, Jim McGinnis, Katie Delaney, Julie Creed, Denny Bschor, Mona Spargo, Bov Eav, Donna Wians, Becky Gravenmier, and Trista Patterson.

The future of our planning — from Joel Holtrop

“...the Forest Service is beginning the collaborative process to create and implement a stable planning rule for the National Forest System to meet modern and future management needs.”

See www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5110264.pdf for the Federal Register Notice now out for comment. Public comments are being accepted via e-mail at fspr@contentanalysisgroup.com. There is also a procedure for internal comments from Forest Service employees.

“I encourage agency employees to review the NOI and submit any comments via Lotus Notes to [fsplanningrule_internal](#). The team working on rewriting the planning rule will review comments mailed to the [fsplanningrule_internal](#) inbox but will not be able to reply to

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each individual comment,” Holtrop wrote. Internal comments are due by March 2, 2010. To keep updated on developments see www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule.

The first of the collection.

R6 Update [Poetry Editor in Chief Cindy McCain](#), Siuslaw NF has selected this month’s R6 poem of the month for R6 Update from a half dozen contenders. All poems submitted will be kept in a collection, and once a month we’ll feature one here. Want to submit one? Contact kbowman@fs.fed.us or Cindy.

Snizzle

Snowflakes vie with the raindrops,
Each elbowing the other aside
As they fall.
Rain has the advantage of speed,
Flake the beauty of grace.
Temperature, that arbiter of each,
Referees the contest and will,
Eventually, disqualify one of them.
Leaving the winner to parade about,
Decorating the area as they will.

Chris Doyle, Zigzag RD, Mt. Hood NF

WellNews Tip

Is someone on your last nerve – but it’s a relationship you need? Write or program in the word “Teacher” in your phone or computer address book to remind yourself that it isn’t about winning, it’s about getting things done and relating well.



Remembering Robin Udey, 1955-2010. Robin Rae Udey, 54, a resident of Pine Grove, died Jan. 25, 2010 in an automobile accident. She and her husband resided in Pine Grove for 30 years. She worked as an Equal Employment Specialist and in Fire and Aviation for the Forest Service.