

# The Thursday R6 Update

## *Honored*

**Winston Rall, Regional Safety Specialist and Saw Program Manager for R6** received special national recognition at the Regional Leadership Team Meeting last week for his continued exemplary commitment to the Forest Service safety and health program and his leadership in the Chainsaw/Crosscut Saw program.

As a member of the cadre that developed the policy and procedures that would become the R6/PNW Chainsaw/Crosscut Saw Training and Certification Program, Winston established a comprehensive program that protects employees from the hazards of one of the most hazardous activities in which Forest Service employees engage.

By providing on-going oversight, leadership and direction to this program, he continues to ensure that employees have the skills and abilities necessary to mitigate exposure to potentially life-threatening hazards. The program also serves the Bureau of Land Management. Under Winston's leadership, it has also become the model upon which many similar programs at federal and state agencies have been based over the years. Even the Oregon State prison system has depended on Winston's assistance to establish a saw training and certification program for their guards.

Winston was instrumental in developing and implementing the Forest Service agency-wide Chainsaw/Crosscut Saw Policy and worked closely with the Missoula Technology and Development Center and National Interagency Fire Center to develop policies, training courses and training videos.

He has also personally provided instruction in the R6/PNW program policies and procedures to the Back Country Horsemen and the Pacific Crest Trail Association, both of which are groups that provide many hours of volunteer labor supporting Forest Service activities. He has also provided instruction to students at the University of Hawaii, hundreds of military fire fighters, both U.S. Army and Marine Corps and to trainees at the Carhart Center, a national interagency wilderness training facility.

His work exponentially improved understanding of the risks and hazards associated with the Chainsaw/Crosscut Saw use, and increased safety for thousands of saw users. (Thanks to Buddy Byrd and James Sullen for the story)

## *Special Guest*

**Siuslaw NF leaders meet with Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Bulgaria.** This month Siuslaw National Forest hosted the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Bulgaria, George Kostov and an assistant from the Foreign Agricultural Service.

**At right: Siuslaw Forest Supervisor Jerry Ingersoll presents a Forest vest to Deputy Minister of Agriculture Kostov.**

The Forest Service was also the first to introduce the Deputy Minister to a Mexican style lunch – as well as hosting conversation and providing gifts and photos for the occasion. Kostov was in Corvallis for one week through a Cochran Fellowship Program visiting Oregon State University’s forestry program. He also spent a week in Washington, DC visiting with Forest Service colleagues prior to his Oregon stay. (Courtesy Katie Isacksen, Siuslaw NF)



### *Fired UP About Fuel Reduction Up*

**How landowners, conservation organizations, and local, state and federal partners are making a difference in the Chumstick Watershed.** Ideas volley back and forth across the large conference table inside Chelan County Fire District 3 in Leavenworth. The topic is an exciting one for the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition (CWSC). Members of the Private Lands Committee are busy determining the most effective way to distribute \$100,000 of fuel reduction funds received through the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. It is a pivotal time in the Chumstick Watershed; forest restoration through fuels reduction is slated to begin on both public and private land in 2010.



“This is what we have worked toward for so long- to get some funding and to get some work done,” said Chumstick resident Bobbi Hotchkiss, “It is actually a little overwhelming because of the responsibility we have to get it right.” The Chumstick Watershed is comprised of approximately 50,000 acres of dry forest north of Leavenworth with a historic fire frequency of 5-15 years. Fire suppression has resulted in 98% of the forest with a higher than normal fuel load. “We came together to protect our lives, homes, and livelihoods,” stated CWSC Chair Ross Frank.

“This is truly a grassroots effort on the part of the community,” he continued. Instead of being complacent, a group of landowners got together to take action.

**At left: Removal of ladder fuels during a CWSC demonstration in the fall of 2009.**

What is now the CWSC has its roots in 2005 when local neighborhood groups and Community Wildfire Protection Plan organizers came together to address wildfire issues in the Chumstick Watershed. In 2008, the grassroots effort formalized and the CWSC was born.

The CWSC is a unique collaborative comprised of landowners and representatives from the Wenatchee River Ranger District, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Chelan County Fire District 3, North Central Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council, Cascadia Conservation District, and Chelan County Commissioners.

It has two active participants from conservation organizations, the Wilderness Society and Conservation Northwest. The CWSC mission is to protect lives, property, and infrastructure in Chumstick Watershed from wildfire through a collaborative partnership utilizing outreach and strategic planning, leading to actions on public and private lands that benefit people, wildlife, forest health, and the community.

The CWSC and Wenatchee River RD worked closely during the pre-National Environmental Policy Act collaborative process to develop a proposed action for the 20,000-acre Chumstick Hazardous Fuels Reduction project. A Decision Notice is expected this spring and work on public land should begin this fall. Through the planning process, participants have learned to trust and respect one another.

“In this particular process, it seemed like everyone listened to one another; the listening was one of the best things about this project,” Chumstick resident Dick Jones stated candidly. “There really wasn’t a confrontational feel,” Jones continued, “and that is why I stay involved.”

And the \$100,000 for fuel reduction? That will be distributed as part of a Private Lands Cost-Share program developed and implemented by the CWSC. The program focuses on creating defensible neighborhoods and places an emphasis on treating private land adjacent to Forest Service fuel reduction. Landowners selected to participate in the Private Lands Cost-Share program will be reimbursed for up to 50% of the cost of fuels treatments.

Through the collaborative efforts in the Chumstick Watershed, forest health is improving, fire resilience is increasing, and trust is building. See more at [www.chumstickcoalition.org](http://www.chumstickcoalition.org). (Courtesy Annie Schmidt, Director, Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition and Susan Thomas, Wenatchee NF.)

## *Collaboration — on the landscape scale*

**Nominations are being sought from the public** for two year terms on the new Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee. The committee will include up to 15 members. See more at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-4686.pdf> .

## *Well-Read Natural Resource Manager*

Research summaries by Robyn Darbyshire. See document, 3/19, attached.

- **Process-Based Principles for Restoring River Ecosystems.** The study outlines and illustrates four process-based principles that ensure river restoration will be guided toward sustainable actions....Applying these principles will help avoid common pitfalls in river restoration, such as creating habitat types outside of a site's natural potential, attempting to build static habitats in dynamic environments, or constructing habitat features that are ultimately overwhelmed by unconsidered system drivers.
- **Bias and error in using survey records for ponderosa pine landscape restoration.** The study goals were to identify and directly estimate common sources of bias and error, and to test the accuracy of statistical methods to identify them. ... Direct comparison of survey data at relocated corners is the only method that can determine if bias and error are meaningful. Data from relocated trees show that biased selection of trees is not likely to be an important source of error. Many surveyor errors would have no impact on reconstruction studies, but omission errors have the potential to have a large impact on results. The study suggests how to reduce potential errors through data screening.
- **Quantifying Macroinvertebrate Responses to In-Stream Habitat Restoration.** Meta-analysis of 24 separate studies showed that increasing habitat heterogeneity had significant, positive effects on macroinvertebrate richness, although density increases were negligible.
- **Aquatic gilled mushrooms: *Psathyrella* fruiting in the Rogue River in southern Oregon....** The underwater environment is a new habitat for gilled mushrooms.
- **Fire and vegetation type effects on soil hydrophobicity and infiltration in the sagebrush-steppe: I. Field analysis.** These findings indicate that land management strategies should be targeted towards moderate fire severity areas.

## *WellNews Tip*

Does your closet look like a war zone? Do you have enough household cleaners to disinfect a sewage plant? If your house is full of clutter, you just may have a buying problem. The only way to switch gears -- is to toss your unnecessary junk. The benefits of de-cluttering are threefold: First, you may stumble upon items you didn't realize you had, which will save you from pointlessly purchasing them again. Second, you'll no longer have to search for things that were previously hidden beneath piles and piles of "stuff"—yet another way that living frugally will help simplify your life. Third, you could wind up making money by selling your excess trinkets! Along these same lines: If you've had a storage unit for longer than six months, you probably need to reassess what you're buying and why you're shelling out money every month to keep it. Consider closing out your storage unit, selling what you can on EBay or in a garage sale and making a fresh start.