

January 30, 2012

# The Bi-Weekly R6 Update

<http://fsweb.r6.fs.fed.us/public-affairs/r6-update/>

## Starr Named Regional Volunteer of Year

Philomath resident Joel Starr was recently selected as the FS Region 6 Individual Volunteer of the Year, one of the agency's highest awards for people that contribute service to public lands.

In 2011, Joel worked on a variety of volunteer projects for the Willamette, Deschutes, Siuslaw and Mt. Hood NFs. His contributions to public lands in western Oregon span over 10 years. He currently serves as the Trail Boss for Mid-Valley Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET), and is a member of the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) and Back Country Horseman of Oregon (BCHO). OET Chapter members often comment on the inspirational role that Joel plays through his work ethic and by encouraging new volunteers to get involved.



**(Left) Regional Forester Kent Connaughton presented Joel Starr (right) with the Region 6 Individual Volunteer of the Year Award at the Sweet Home RD last week. (Right) Starr takes some time to share important safety information with other volunteers before they hit the trail.**

Examples of Joel's tremendous contributions include:

- Leading a group of volunteers to deconstruct a rotting bridge on the Little North Fork Trail
- Rebuilding five horse corrals at Sevenmile Horse Camp
- Clearing over 17 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail.
- Organizing and running the crosscut saw certification portion of the Trail Skills College for the High Cascades Forest Volunteers

January 30, 2012

“Joel’s outstanding attitude and diverse skills make him an extremely valuable resource,” said Brad Peterson, Wilderness and Trails Manager for the Detroit and Sweet Home RDs. “He finds the projects, recruits the volunteers, and gets high quality work done safely.”

Thousands of visitors to the Willamette NF benefit from the care for public lands demonstrated by Joel and organizations like OET and the PCTA. “Volunteers are such an asset to the Forest Service, and we’re pleased that Joel has been recognized at the Regional level,” said Cindy Glick, District Ranger for the Sweet Home RD.

(Story by Jennifer O’Leary, Willamette NF)

## Outdoors, Eagles and Fish Inspire Youth

In early January more than 70 youths and adults from Mt. Vernon’s Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Program and Seattle’s International District Housing Alliance convened to learn about the amazing raptors and their connection to salmon and healthy forest ecosystems at the Mt. Baker Ranger Station in Sedro-Woolley, WA.



### **Nine year old Veronica Cristal Cruz scans for eagles. Washington State’s Skagit River boosts the largest wintering Bald Eagle population in the continental U.S.**

Following a brief presentation on Bald Eagles headed by the North Cascades Institute, excited faces and intriguing questions filled the room as participants were introduced to a live rescue Bald Eagle by Jeff Guidry of the Sarvey Wildlife Center. The event continued with a guided session by FS staff of eagle watching along designated sites along Hwy 20 and a tour of the Marblemount Fish Hatchery where viewers marveled at the sight of populations of Coho Salmon spawning in a nearby creek.

(Story by Stella Torres and photo by Renee Bodine, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF)

January 30, 2012

## Well-Read Natural Resource Manager

Summaries by Robyn Darbyshire. See accompanying document. Reminder: If you want your own “Well-Read Natural Resource Manager” on a **weekly basis**, send a note to Robyn at [rdarbyshire@fs.fed.us](mailto:rdarbyshire@fs.fed.us).

- **Effects of biotic disturbances on forest carbon cycling in the United States and Canada**
- **Nest Reuse by northern Spotted Owls on the east slope of the Cascade Range, WA**
- **Identifying geographical patterns of wildfire orientation: A watershed-based analysis**
- **Distinguishing human and climate influences on the Columbia River: Changes in mean flow and sediment transport**
- **The effects of soil texture and ash thickness on the post-fire hydrological response from ash-covered soils**
- **Drought effects on damage by forest insects and pathogens**
- **Managing impressions and forests: The importance of role confusion in co-creation of a natural resource conflict**
- **Community wildfire protection planning: Is the Healthy Forests Restoration Act’s vagueness genius?**
- **Increase of extreme events in a warming world**
- **Demographic processes limiting seedling recruitment in arid grassland restoration**
- **The Wilderness Act, prohibited uses and exceptions: How much manipulation of wilderness is too much?**
- **Small soil storage capacity limits benefit of winter snowpack to upland vegetation**
- **Influences of moisture content, mineral content and bulk density on smouldering combustion of ponderosa pine duff mounds**

January 30, 2012

- **Abiotic and biotic influences on *Bromus tectorum* invasion and *Artemisia tridentata* recovery after fire**
- **Responding to climate change in national forests: A guidebook for developing adaptation options**

## For Fun



As always, thanks to Jimmie Turner, Walla Walla RD

## Look Back in FS History: Lookout Spots Elephants

One day in September of 1927 John Tucker, the Baldy Mountain lookout on the Wallow Whitman NF, ascended his tower as usual and scanned the Forest for smokes and flames. No new fires, but down the Baldy Mountain trail something entirely new was happening. Once in a while large trees near the trail would wave for a few seconds and then stop almost as abruptly as they started.

Tucker thought it was a local earthquake along the trail. Gigantic footsteps vibrated the tower as the 'quake' moved up the trail and then, an elephant stuck his head from the timbered opening of the trail and then another and following came camels, five of them.



January 30, 2012

“Am I in India, Siam or the Sahara?” thought Tucker.

But it was only the elephants and camels of ‘Honest Bill’s Circus’ being transferred from Unity to Prairie across the Whitman and Malheur NFs.

Tucker took advantage of the opportunity to get several pictures of the elephants and camels in the vicinity of the lookout tower.

(An excerpt from one of the editions of the FS publications *Six Twenty-Six*, which ran during 1920s to 1940s. Article by J.L. Peterson. More information [//oregonlookouts.weebly.com/grant-county.html](http://oregonlookouts.weebly.com/grant-county.html).)

## 1st Round of BAER Work Completed on Duckabush Trail

Before the snows hit the Olympic Peninsula, crews completed the first round of Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) work on the Duckabush Trail. Nearly four miles of the trail, located in steep terrain on Olympic NF’s Hood Canal RD, were severely damaged in the 1,243-acre Big Hump Fire in September.

In an effort to stabilize the burned area to prevent further damage from heavy rains and winter storms, crews have been removing fallen trees from the trail and installing water bars. Future actions will include hazard tree assessments along the trail and at popular rest stops, scenic vistas, and campsites, signing (public safety messages), and tread improvements. However, due to the continued hazards on the trail, it remains closed to public access.



**BAER work along the Duckabush Trail**

(Story by Donna Nemeth, Olympic NF and photos by Scott Hagerty)

January 30, 2012

## Prepping Volunteers for Snowshoeing Hikes

Snowshoeing has started in the Cascades Mountains on Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF. But before the first visitor could strap on shoes, 25 volunteers who would be leading snowshoe hikes took a winter safety class at Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Center.

During her fifth annual class, Forest Ranger Kim Larned leads groups through job hazards analysis, winter precautions and visitor expectations. She has been running the snowshoe interpretive hikes for 20 years, which began with a few small group hikes and expanded into a robust program offering outings tailored for children, families and the more adventurous. These hikes start in January and continue through March.

“We started the volunteer training because we were getting more and more people interested in volunteering, and safety is so critical in the winter, not only for the volunteers, but also for the public we are out with,” said Larned. She feels strongly that a Forest Service volunteer is on an equal playing field with employees when it comes to customer service and safety.

During the class Larned gave volunteers tips for noticing the onset of hyperthermia, reviewed emergency response procedures and showed them how to identify landmarks along trails covered in snow.

“Many of these trails look alike, especially with fresh snow. You will be escorting visitors back and forth to the center and you don’t want to get lost,” she said.

To conclude the class, volunteers went on a 90-minute snowshoe walk to experience first-hand what they would be doing for opening day.



**Brad Allen, a volunteer ranger, races through the forest during the winter hazards training at Snoqualmie Pass.**

(Photo and story by Kelly Sprute, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF)

January 30, 2012

## Where in the Region?

Test your knowledge of Forests in R6! Below are new photos from somewhere in WA or OR. Using the following hints from Haiku Master Chris Doyle, can you figure it out? Next week, I will print the answers along with new photos for the guessing. If you have **photos** or **artwork** of places in R6 you would like people to guess, please send them to me at [krisacksen@fs.fed.us](mailto:krisacksen@fs.fed.us).



**Named by Applegate,  
One of the clearest of lakes  
Found in Oregon**



**In nineteen-o-eight,  
With over 200 caves,  
This forest was named**

*The answers to last edition's photos are: Deer in field in the Columbia Gorge National Recreation Area and Mt. Thielsen on the Fremont-Winema NF.*



## WellNews - Eye Care

Your eyes are an important part of your health, so how do you maintain their strength? There are many things you can do to keep them healthy and make sure you are seeing your best. Here are a few simple steps:

**Wear protective eyewear.** Wear protective eyewear when playing sports or doing activities around the home. Protective eyewear includes safety glasses and goggles, safety shields, and eye guards specially designed to



January 30, 2012

provide the correct protection for a certain activity. Most protective eyewear lenses are made of polycarbonate, which is 10 times stronger than other plastics.

**Quit smoking or never start.** Smoking is as bad for your eyes as it is for the rest of your body. Research has linked smoking to an increased risk of developing age-related macular degeneration, cataract and optic nerve damage, all of which can lead to blindness.



**Be cool and wear your shades.** Sunglasses are a great fashion accessory, but their most important job is to protect your eyes from the sun’s ultraviolet rays. Purchase sunglasses that block out 99 – 100% of both UV-A and UV-B radiation.

**Give your eyes a rest.** If you spend a lot of time at the computer or focusing on any one thing, you sometimes forget to blink and your eyes can get fatigued. Try the 20-20-20 rule: Every 20 minutes, look away about 20 feet in front of you for 20 seconds. This can help reduce eyestrain.

**Clean your hands and your contact lenses—properly.** To avoid the risk of infection, always wash your hands thoroughly before putting in or taking out your contact lenses. Make sure to disinfect contact lenses as instructed and replace them as appropriate.

**Have a comprehensive dilated eye exam.** You might think your vision is fine or that your eyes are healthy, but visiting your eye care professional for a comprehensive dilated eye exam is the only way to really be sure. When it comes to common vision problems, some people don’t realize they could see better with glasses or contact lenses. In addition, many common eye diseases such as glaucoma, diabetic eye disease and age-related macular degeneration often have no warning signs. A dilated eye exam is the only way to detect these diseases in their early stages.



More tips at <http://www.nei.nih.gov/healthyeyes/eyehealthtips.asp>