

THE CHIEF'S DESK...

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

March 5, 2010



Learning Safety – it's always a journey



Long Term Ecological Network (LTER) Board Appointed

Deputy Chief of Research & Development, Ann M. Bartuska, is a recently appointed member of the Long Term Ecological Network, or LTER, National Advisory Board. The 15-member board provides independent review and advice to the LTER Network; appropriate funding agencies; and the LTER Network Office, which coordinates communication, network publications and research planning activities. The LTER Network is a collaborative effort involving more than 1800 scientists and students investigating ecological processes over long temporal and broad spatial scales.

NAS&PF: National Project Learning Tree Outstanding Educator Named

Susan Cox, conservation education coordinator for the Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry, has been named one of five 2010 Outstanding Educators by Project Learning Tree® (PLT), the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation. Cox will be honored in Lake Tahoe, NV, May 17–20. “Susan’s work is making a difference in young people’s understanding and learning about environmental issues that we face now and in the future,” said Kathryn Maloney, Northeastern Area Director. Susan helped design and deliver programs for teachers and other educators, including teacher forestry tours in Maine and watershed institutes for teachers in New York. Nationally, she has advised the Council of State Science Supervisors on incorporating environmental education into state science standards and other policies to enhance science literacy and instruction.

OIG to Perform Random Audit on FS BlackBerry Devices

The USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) has initiated an audit to evaluate the management and security over the Department’s wireless handheld devices. As part of this review, OIG will be performing field tests at undisclosed sites throughout the United States on agency staffs’ handheld mobile devices. Should OIG staff ask you for your Blackberry or other “Smartphone”, please be prepared to work with them on short notice and to accommodate their request as part of this governmental audit. <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/irm/end-users/documents/usda-oig-engagement-letter.pdf>

R5: Tribal Relations Podcast

A new tribal relations podcast is featured on the Region 5 website. In this episode of "Forest Focus," Regional Tribal Relations Manager Merv George and Michelle Hoaglin, Executive Director of the California Indian Basketweavers Association, talk about various topics of importance to Native Americans in California, and in particular the relationship between Tribal Governments and the Forest Service. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/podcasts/>

R9: White Mountain National Employees Receive Award

The New England Society of American Foresters has awarded the employees of the White Mountain National Forest (NH) with the “Integrity in Conservation Award.” “The Forest is proud of its employees and honored to receive this recognition as an organization working with natural resources who demonstrates adherence to principles and high standards in the face of adversity,” said Forest Supervisor Tom Wagner who will accept the award on behalf of all employees at a banquet on March 10.

“Research and Development National Invasive Species Strategy”

A “Research and Development National Invasive Species Strategy” was recently released by Forest Service Research. The Strategy identifies the science based tools, techniques and information needed by natural resource managers to reduce, minimize or eliminate the potential for introduction, establishment, spread and impact of invasive species across all landscapes and ownerships. The Strategy emphasizes the importance of working with partners and stakeholders and recognizes the need to transfer research results to stakeholders in a timely manner through enhanced and efficient public – private partnerships.

PSW: American Pika Research Addresses Climate Change Question

A small mammalian relative of rabbits and hares, the American pika inhabits rocky slopes of western North American mountains. Vulnerability of pika habitat to global warming has been an escalating concern, causing speculation that the range of suitable pika habitat will contract upward in elevation as lower elevation site temperatures increase. Pacific Southwest Research Station scientists Constance Millar and Robert Westfall used presence and site climate data to find that in the study region, pika are thriving and persist in a wider range of temperatures than previously discovered. Read more>>> http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/news/2010/100301_pika.pdf

Personnel News

Barry Long accepted the Surface Water Program Leader (Hydrologist) position (WO-NFS) in Washington DC. Barry is currently a Hydrologist for the National Park Service, Fort Collins, CO.

Rick Lint accepted the Deputy Forest Supervisor position (R8) **NFs in Mississippi** in Jackson, MS. Rick is currently a District Ranger, on the Lake George & Seminole Ranger Districts on the Ocala NF in Umatilla, FL.

Colleen Madrid accepted the R9 Green Mountain-Finger Lakes NFs, Forest Supervisor position in Rutland, VT. Colleen is currently a District Ranger in R3, Cave Creek District, Tonto NF, in Phoenix, AZ.

Bea Van Horne accepted the Land & Watershed Program Manager position (PNWRS) in Corvallis, OR. Bea is currently an Ecosystems Program Coordinator, US Geological Survey, in Reston, VA.

In the future

Chief Tidwell, Associate Chief Kashdan and the National Leadership Council members will be meeting in Albuquerque, NM.

People, Places and Things is compiled from input by field units and Washington Office staffs as well as from news articles, newsletters and other sources.

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