

THE CHIEF'S DESK...

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

February 19, 2010



Go slow in the snow.

Collaboration Activities for New Planning Rule Told

The FS will be hosting a Science Forum, three National Roundtables and nine Regional Roundtables to provide opportunities for public input and dialogue on the development of the new Planning Rule. Meetings will begin in the last week of March and go through the second week of May. The Science Forum and the National Roundtables will be held in Washington, DC and there will be one Regional Roundtable in each region; some Regions will also be holding additional public meetings. A Federal Register notice with dates and locations is expected to be published the week of February 22, 2010.

R4: Smokey Wins Grand Prize in Local Snow Sculpture Contest

The McCall RD of the Payette NF won its first-ever Grand Prize in the local snow sculpture contest during 2010 Winter Carnival in McCall, ID. The sculpture, called ‘Smokey’s Wild Ride’, depicts Smokey Bear and a friend operating a Salmon River flat bottomed scow. The sculpture, which took 19 volunteers two weeks to build measures 32 feet by 8 feet and is a replica of the scows which used to transport equipment and supplies to gold miners between Salmon and Lewiston, Idaho. Smokey stands at 11 feet and his head, estimated to weigh 300 pounds, was carved by a retired Forest Supervisor who has earned renown as a wood carver. The \$1000 prize money will be donated to charity.

R5: Electric Utility Company Settles Claims Arising from Fire

Southern California Edison has paid \$2.8 million to settle the government's claims for damages in a case resulting from the 2002 Birch Fire on the Inyo NF. The 2,600 acre fire was ignited by a 12,000-volt power distribution line. The FS investigation determined that the cause of the fire was sparks from broken hardware at a power pole coupled with failure to trim tree branches that had grown into the power lines. A portion of the funds received will be used to restore the landscape that the fire destroyed.

R9: Landscape Auction Slated

The White River Partnership along with the Green Mountain NF (VT), the Vermont State Agency of Natural Resources, the Trust for Public Land, and several other partners are currently working with a Dutch consulting firm, Triple E, to identify items for a landscape auction. Individuals, community groups, and businesses will have the opportunity to bid on, and preserve, certain parts of the landscape, mostly in private ownership, in the White River Watershed in Vermont. The actual auction will take place sometime this summer; however, Triple E will be in the area February 23- 26, to talk to landowners, media, and potential bidders.

R10: Former Forest Supe "Partnered " His Way Into National Award

The Association of Partners for Public Lands recently recognized Joe Meade as the 2010 Agency Partner of the Year for his work as past Chugach NF Supervisor. The award recognizes a public lands agency employee who demonstrates exceptional achievement in cultivating an atmosphere of partnership between their agency and the nonprofit organizations with which they are affiliated. Meade's accomplishments include work with the Alaska Railroad Whistlestop project, the Iditarod Trail restoration project and the Chugach Children's Forest initiative.

SRS: Researchers Receive Top Honors for Risk Analysis Paper

A collaborative effort among FS, North Carolina State University, and Canadian Forest Service scientists recently received top honors from the Society for Risk Analysis. Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center researcher William Smith co-authored the paper titled, "Evaluating Critical Uncertainty Thresholds in a Spatial Model of Forest Pest Invasion Risk." Using *Sirex noctilio*, a nonnative woodwasp recently detected in the United States and Canada, the researchers analyzed how uncertainty in risk models could change a risk map's outcome and, consequently, its reliability as a decision support tool. Risk maps are used by forest land managers, decision makers, and regulators to address quarantining, monitoring, and controlling invasive species.

Personnel News

Tim Abing, currently a Geologist, in Ogden UT accepted the Senior Geologist, Oil & Gas Resource Management position (WO-NFS) in Golden, CO.

Melody Holm, currently a Geologist accepted the Supervisory Geologist, Geological Resources, Hazards & Surface Management position (WO-NFS) in Golden, CO.

Andrea Loucks, currently an Acting Program Manager accepted the Partnership Coordinator position (WO-NFS) in Washington, DC.

Mazzie Mazyck, currently a Transition Project Manager at the Corporation for National & Community Service in Washington, DC accepted the Partnership Coordinator position (WO-NFS) in Washington, DC.

Rhonda Flores, currently a Deputy Director, Manpower & Personnel at Edwards AFB accepted the Assistant Director, HR Development position (ASC-HRM) in Albuquerque, NM.

Jennifer McGuire, currently on a temporary promotion to a Supervisory Budget Analyst accepted the Director, Audit & Assurance position (ASC-B&F) in Albuquerque, NM.

Gretchen Nicholas, currently a Program Manager for Silviculture, Research & Monitoring at the Department of Natural Resources in Olympia, WA accepted the Deputy Program Manager, Resources Monitoring & Assessment position (PNWRS) in Portland, OR.

In the future

Associate Chief Kashdan and Chief of Staff De Coster will travel to NYC to review the Million Trees Project followed by a safety site visit to Con Edison in Queen, NY. On February 25-26,

Deputy Chief Holtrop will participate in the Water Resource Line Officers meeting in Sedona, AZ to discuss leadership opportunities in water related issues.

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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