



Summer 1997 ..

Note From Editor:

Please contact us if you would like more information on how to reach any of the authors of these articles. We appreciate the creative responses and hope you won't let formatting details concern you...we can even use a DG note! Thanks again for your contributions.

Debbie Morlock-(307) 543-2386, and Jeanie Thurmond-(307) 739-5434

NEW FACILITIES

Step into Your Rain Forest

On the small, beautiful, naturally and culturally diverse island of Puerto Rico lies the **Caribbean National Forest**, the only tropical rain forest in our National Forest system. In June 1996, the forest opened the world class **El Portal Tropical Forest Center** to interpret this unique environment to forest visitors. The center has 12,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space and is fully accessible. During it's first year of operation, the center welcomed over 100,000 visitors from 73 countries (20% of total forest visitation). As the facility gets more exposure, visitation is expected to increase dramatically.

El Portal offers a close-captioned introductory film highlighting the Caribbean National Forest ecosystems and bilingual exhibits about tropical forests and their human connection. The interpretive staff offers guided tours of the forest through the Rent-a-Ranger program, evening activities, and special events in and outside the forest. They have produced printed brochures, books, maps and other written materials about forest resources and recreation opportunities which are available at the center. Local artisans and guest speakers present special exhibits, lectures, and demonstrations.

To complement on-site activities, El Portal contacted over 5,000 elementary and middle school students through the **Tropical Forests Trunk** environmental education program. This program trains educators to promote active involvement of students in tropical forest conservation and the development of solutions to local environmental problems. The materials also prepare students for a visit to the tropical forest.

For more information, write to El Portal Tropical Forest Center, Caribbean National Forest, P. O. Box 490, Palmer, Puerto Rico 000721, or call (787) 888-1810.

Fire fighters Monument

In the summer of 1996, a Wildland Fire fighters Monument was dedicated in Prineville, Oregon, honoring the contributions of all fire fighters, past, present and future. The idea for the monument and the driving force behind the completion of the project was the Prineville Hotshots Parent Committee, Inc. The committee was made up of several parents of the 14 wildland fire fighters killed July 6, 1994, on Storm King Mountain near Glenwood Springs, Colorado; members of the local community; and Forest Service personnel. The monument, improvements at the site, and associated costs were all privately financed.

The two major design elements of the project were the monument itself and the very personal bio-plaques of the 14 young men and women who gave their lives on Storm King

Mountain. Landscape Architect Alan Redman participated on the design team to site and display the two elements. The monument is approximately 13 feet long, 8 feet wide and 11 feet high and sits on a 3 foot stone base. The three fire fighters portrayed on the monument, two men and one woman, are 1-1/4 life-size. Clothing, tools and equipment are accurately depicted for the 1994 fire season.

In addition to the monument, there are 14 "bio-plaques" (copies of those used at the Storm King Memorial in Glenwood Springs). The plaques have a photo engraving of each fire fighter with a 2-3 paragraph description of their lives and their love for the job of fighting fires. The plaques are polished granite, supplied and engraved by Stone Imagery of Carlsbad, CA.

A site was selected in Ochoco Creek Park, a city park near downtown Prineville. The park has an open space character with a linear shape as it follows Ochoco Creek through town. The monument was sited on the edge of the open space near the creek. Concrete pavers were placed concentricly around the base of the monument to harden the viewing area. Following the linear shape of the park, a 100 foot pathway, 6 feet wide, of concrete pavers was built to move toward the monument and run parallel to the creek. The walkway was enclosed with the planting of over 100 aspen and red-twig dogwood. Several varieties of woodland perennials were planted randomly between the aspen. Bark chips were then spread across the remainder of the planting area.

Along each side of the pathway 20 boulders indigenous to the area symbolize the traditional 20 person fire fighting crew. The 14 bio bio-plaques are mounted on the boulders. An additional six plaques describe the various roles of fire fighters on the fire line, including Hot Shots, Helitack, Smokejumpers, Dozers and Engines, Air Attack, and Hand Crews. The plaques and the figures on the monument are illuminated for several hours in the evening.

The two design elements work well together. The monument has the scale and visibility to draw attention to the site. The pathway, connected to the monument, provides an opportunity for privacy and reflection on who are these Wildland Fire fighters what is their job. Both elements fit the site and does not alter the character of the park. Alan Redman:R06F07A

Birds, Bogs & Bayous (with Bats, Butterflies & Bivalves)

The annual Bird, Bog & Bayou Tour flew off to success in May, co-sponsored by the Louisiana Native Plant Society, the Baton Rouge Audubon Society, and the Kisatchie National Forest. The tour featured the unique ecosystem on the Vernon Ranger District, attracting professional and amateur birders and botanists from throughout the state.

Although threatened by inclement weather, over 50 people participated in the 1997 event. Ages ranged from 1 to 92 years, with several young people from the local scout troop attending as special guests.

Participants viewed banding of the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker, watched the placement of transmitters on two Rafinesque Big-eared Bats, saw stream sampling of mussels and glimpsed migratory butterflies on wild azalea blossoms produced admiration. Hiking through bogs with the carnivorous plant life inspired amazement. The adventure concluded with Roots, Shoots and Fruits Cuisine, featuring edible native plants and herbal teas.

The opportunity to interact with local life forms unique to west central Louisiana was a learning experience for all involved. Best of all, the thunderstorms did not break until after the tour concluded.

Simply Bully!

Over 300 Alaskans celebrated the 90th birthday of the Chugach National Forest through an innovative and unique natural resource conservation education project. Funded by a small education grant, the Cordova Ranger District contracted the drafting of an original melodrama about the creation of the Chugach National Forest.

"Simply Bully" chronicled the Ballinger-Pinchot affair which directly led to the firing of Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot, the resignation of Secretary of the Interior Richard Ballinger, and Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft's unsuccessful reelection bids. The original melodrama was staged by a local community theater troupe, and earned rave reviews and standing ovations. For more information contact Sandy Frost:R10F04D02A.

YOUTH OUTREACH

Raps is a Big Hit

The Chugach National Forest is participating in the Alaska Resource Apprenticeship Program for Students (RAPS) which is overseen by the BLM. It places high school students with resource agencies and provides an outstanding opportunity for young people to explore careers in natural resource management.

This year, six students from south central Alaska are learning and growing as they work with all disciplines on ranger districts. As James Vest, 1997 RAPS student, stated, "I had no idea that the Forest Service did so many different jobs, or that the people that worked here were so nice." For more information contact Sandy Frost:R10F04D02A, Chugach RD

Inter-Tribal Alaskan Youth Training

This year's Alaska InterTribal Youth Practicum was a grand success. Twenty-one Alaska native youth, ages 15-20, spent a week working with tribal elders and staff from federal land management agencies to address cultural, social, economic, and resource management issues.

The students were split into three tribal councils and charged with developing three, consecutive, 10-year management plans. The students exhibited lots of creativity in their plans this year -- using glacial ice as a renewable resource, developing archaeology expeditions for tourists, and using the Internet to advertise local foods and crafts.

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe, IRA was the host this year. Partners included Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, Park Service, Geological Survey, and Forest Service. For more information, contact Macky McClung:R10A.

Interns Go To Camp

June 16 through June 27, the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests hosted Vanya Hollis, Kendra Fant, Heather Whitcomb and Isaac Mills, students from Chicago, Missouri, Massachusetts, and Maryland, who are pursuing degrees in education and the environmental sciences. The four interns received training at the Forest Service Research Station in Radnor, PA, then travelled to summer camps in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

At the camps, they led groups of 20 to 180 students daily in Project Learning Tree and Project Wild activities focused on recycling, water conservation, fire prevention, and ecosystem connections.

Responses from the children and camp counselors were positive. The campers learned about the environment, developed a bond with nature and had FUN while the interns gained experience in applying academic training to the real world and skills for building successful careers.

Meeting and working with these outstanding young adults was refreshing. They give us hope and trust in the future that they will carry on our work as they carve out their own careers.

Rachel Schneider:R08F03A

Exploring Alaska's Prince William Sound

Filled with beautiful illustrations and engaging activities, this new, 28-page, children's activity book has been a great success in the short time that its been available. Developed by a coalition of community partners, the book highlights the forest and marine ecosystems of Prince William Sound, and human dependence on those ecosystems. The project was partially funded by a development grant from the Alaska Natural History Association, and printing was donated by the Alyeska Pipeline Services Company. Proceeds from the sale of the educational publication will be used to support continued science education programs in the Prince William Sound area. For more information contact Sandy Frost:R10F04D02A.

Kaibab Kids

"Kaibab Kids" activity sheet will soon be ready for printing and distribution to the children who visit the Kaibab National Forest. This was a forest-wide effort through NRCE funds; several districts and our regional publications specialist helped with design and layout.

Kids Fish in Ouachita NF

More than 1,190 youths and 1,124 accompanying adults participated in the 9th Annual Kid's Fishing Days activities across the Ouachita National Forest. This year's success was due to many district organizers, volunteers, and sponsors. Our partners increased three-fold this year.

The forest participated with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Magic Bait Company, and many other partners to provide a fun-filled weekend of fishing activities in Glenwood, Booneville, Jessieville, Pencil Bluff, Waldron, Perryville, Mount Ida, Mena and Danville, Arkansas and in Talihina, Oklahoma.

The Forest also assisted the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission with two additional hatchery derby events for 2400 kids by providing 25 cases of catfish baits. Richard Standage:R08F09A

PROVOCATIVE PROGRAMS

Forest Mystery Bag

The "Forest Mystery Bag" activity has spiced up interpretive programs and informational talks at the Cradle of Forestry in America (CFA). This bag is filled with all sorts of curious objects and household items, some which are metaphors for aspects of forests and their management, and other items which serve simply as talking points for important forest concepts.

A sample of some "Forest Mystery Bag" objects include: sunglasses (different perspectives of forest management); coffee filter (forests filter impurities from water and air); sponge (the forest absorbs water); small bag of coins (different values of forests); chain links (food chain); boot laces (recreational uses of forests); small earth (our global interconnectedness).

The CFA staff has found the activity particularly useful as a short program for groups with extra time on their hands, for scout groups wanting to talk about forestry, as a rainy day activity, and a great tool for roving interpretation. It is a great anticipation builder and participation encourager.

The idea was inspired by the "Forest Metaphors" activity found in the Wilderness and Land Ethic Curriculum, as well as the "Thing Bag" activity, presented by the NC Aquarium -

Roanoke Island at the 1997 Environmental Education Conference. For more information about the CFA "Forest Mystery Bag," contact Jane Dauster:R08F11D59A

Ride in the Past

Costumed interpretation on the train to the Grand Canyon continues to be a big hit thanks to successful partnership.

Herping in the Allegheny National Forest

You may be familiar with the Breeding Bird Atlas surveys completed in various states in past years. In Pennsylvania, a similar project has begun to survey state reptiles and amphibians. I'm involved in the project as a volunteer, intensively surveying a "block" (about 9.5 sq. miles) as well as reporting incidental sightings throughout the state.

I am now integrating this research into my environmental education programs in the Allegheny National Forest region with great success. So far, since "herping" is fairly new to me, I'm concentrating on having the groups look for salamanders along small creeks. Salamanders are relatively easy to find and capture and there is no risk of nasty bites with small species.

My first group found all of the 6 species that have been identified along streams in the area: mountain and northern duskies, red-spotted newts, red-backed, northern spring, and northern two-lined. I was surprised at how easily the students caught on to identifications characteristics of each species.

The well hidden "herps" invoke a magical surprise wherever they are discovered. Students realized the need to take care in handling the delicate creatures and were amazed at how long-lived salamanders are (some may be as old as the children!). "Herping" taught them a lot about the environment and the need to "care for the land."

Our species tallies made a definite contribution to the research project. I'm pleased to be able to integrate research in my educational programs.

A herpetological survey may be starting up in your state - check it out! For more information, contact Sylvia Grisez at (814) 723-5150 ext. 213 or by DG at R09F19A.

EXCITING EXHIBITS

People Are a Part of Nature

Final designs and fabrication drawings for exhibits at the Interagency Visitor Center in Williams, AZ, have been completed and are going out for bid. They will hopefully be installed in the fall of '98! A variety of partnerships and funding sources were used to make this dream a reality for the Kaibab National Forest. The theme is "People are a part of nature" - come by in 1999 and discover your place in the ecosystem!

Do Impact Monsters Have More Fun?

It's one of those beautiful, endlessly long, Alaskan summer days. You are walking along happily enjoying your surroundings when you find yourself overlooking an appalling scene! You see some campers hunkered down within a few feet of a creek, near the inlet to a lake. Their bright red tents parked on the bank are hard to miss. They seem to be enjoying themselves, but what an unbelievable mess they have created! It takes awhile to comprehend the extent of the damage.

Someone is chopping down a green tree...someone else is dragging yet another green tree over to a huge fire ring. The fire pit is full of trash and litter, and more fresh trash is scattered widely about the campsite, comprising a tell tale range of these campers movements. That must be the trail they hiked in on, for candy wrappers, like footprints, mark the way. A radio

is blaring. Bottles and beer cans have been thrown into the lake. Fishing line and fish heads and entrails litter the lakeshore. Someone is washing dishes in the clear water, using detergent. A film of soap bubbles surrounds his work in a widening arc. You gape in astonishment, but wait! there's more! Visible on the hillside behind camp are several large, odd looking blue flowers with....brown centers? NO! That couldn't be toilet paper and human waste! Or is it? And darned if that's not a bear with a cub tearing into the food cache, probably attracted by the food and litter scattered all around.

You are about to call out to warn them when you come to your senses...this isn't real - its only a diarama! A miniature scene depicting a South Central Alaska back country camp. You've been strolling through the Alaska Public Lands Information Center and have come upon the Seward Ranger District's new display on Leave No Trace camping and hiking. Thank goodness this isn't real! Certainly no true campers and lovers of the wilderness would wreak such havoc upon the environment, would they?

Yes, they would, and they do! So say trail workers on Alaska's most hiked trail system. Seward's 200+ miles of trails, within a couple hours drive of Anchorage, are the most highly used in the state. All of the abuses depicted in the diarama are commonplace. Some folks even come up with more imaginative ways of vandalizing the back country! Usually the root of the problem is ignorance. Some people just don't know any better. Getting the information out there in an entertaining way is what this interpretive site is all about.

The miniature scene is especially attractive to youngsters who pull over nearby chairs and sit looking, intrigued with the tiny people, bears and moose, and the minuscule potato chip bags and beer cans. A sign above the diarama synthesizes the Six Principles of Leave No Trace, and challenges viewers to find all the things the "Impact Monster" campers are doing wrong at "Camp Oh-No." Across the creek, which divides the diarama in half, is "Happy Camp," a pristine scene where a barely visible green tent is nestled in the trees far from the trail and water. Someone is cooking dinner on a rock with a camp stove, and someone else, also barely visible, seems to be digging a cat hole in an out of the way place, perhaps burying human waste. All is green and lush here. A moose is peacefully grazing on the undisturbed vegetation.

Hopefully this dramatic depiction of the best and worst camping scenarios will positively impact the thousand people who visit each summer. We hope they won't agree with a little boy when asked, "Where would you rather camp?" pointed to the litter strewn side and said "This one. It looks like more fun."

SPECIAL EVENTS

TEACHING TEACHERS

It's a Ten

The Teaching Environmental-Science Naturally (TEN) program is taking root in Colorado. This annual week-long outdoor classroom for teachers is currently being offered in four Colorado communities and expanding to five in 1998. Teachers become familiar with significant local natural and cultural resource sites and issues, such as fire ecology and wildlife conflicts. The TEN program utilizes new and existing environmental education curriculum such as the Fire Box, Wilderness Box, Project Wild, Project Learning Tree and Project Wet. All TEN activities are correlated to Colorado Education Standards for teachers.

The newly developed Fire Box combines national interagency curriculum on fire ecology as well as local, site-based information regarding wildland fire, suppression, fire ecology and prescribed natural fires. In this context, fire is the means of teaching hands-on

interdisciplinary skills in math, science, English, journalism, and geography.

Arizona Educators See Textbooks Come Alive

The 16th annual Natural Resources Conservation Workshop was hosted in June by the Coconino National Forest. Thirty five educators from across Arizona gathered to experience science-based, hands-on instruction about water, soil, forests, rangeland and wildlife conservation. The workshop was not only fun, but provided quality environmental education for teachers who will carry these concepts back to their students, whether in a classroom, park or zoo.

This workshop demonstrated the best in collaboration among resource management agencies and educational institutions. Workshop facilitators represented the University of Arizona, Arizona Association for Learning In and About the Environment, US Forest Service, Arizona State Lands Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Northern Arizona Audubon Society, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Phoenix Zoo.

FACTS OF LIFE

Kaibab Catches Interp Madness!

That's right - and YOU could be next! Interp madness could strike any Forest, anywhere. No one is safe! Symptoms begin when small children start following you around, and you wear khaki on your day OFF. The disease progresses as you start keeping dead animals in your freezer, you're over 25 and still have a subscription to Ranger Rick, and people think you speak 4 different languages. You know there is no hope for a cure when you start playing games like "Name That Turd" and become VERY patient with children.

Well, the Williams/Chalender Ranger District on the Kaibab National Forest in Williams, AZ, has signs of all of the above. Our disease has gotten so severe that we are doing things like designing ecosystem exhibits for our Visitor Center that link people to the land; doing campground interp programs on cutting trees called "The Truth About Trees;" and educating visitors about native American cultures by hosting an American Indian Heritage Festival!

Please pray for us!! Who knows - we could even end up recruiting interpretive signers to sign programs on Archaeology to deaf students!! SEND HELP (or money) to: Wesley Massey:R03F04D02A; 520-635-4707

THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM A DOG...

...Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.

...Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

...When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

...When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.

...Let others know when they've invaded your territory.

...Take naps, and stretch before rising.

...Run, romp and play daily.

...Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.

...Be loyal.

...Never pretend to be something you're not.

...If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

...When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

...Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

...Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

...On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.

...When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

...No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout, run right back and make friends.

...Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

RESOURCES

Forest Ecosystems Poster

A poster titled, Forest Ecosystems . . . Forever New, Forever Changing, depicts the life cycle of a hardwood forest in snapshots at 4, 40, and 80 years after timber harvesting. The full-color paintings and insets include plants and animals found in the forest ecosystem, and scenes that show how the forest provides enjoyment, learning, and resources for generations.

Activities on the back of the 28 by 40 inch poster help grade school classes explore the topics of biodiversity, nutrient cycling, forest succession, and how people benefit from the forest. Contacts for information on conservation education in the Northeastern Area are included on the poster.

The poster is produced by the Forest Service and can be ordered from the U. S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC by calling (202) 512-1800 or by calling the Sales Warehouse Outlet in Laurel, MD (301) 953-7974. The stock number for the Forest Ecosystems: Forever New, Forever Changing (Poster) is 001-000-04635-7. The cost is \$7.50 each, and Visa, Mastercard and Discover are accepted.

Forestry CD-ROMS

This past winter the Minnesota Society of American Foresters held a conference highlighting the use of technology in the forestry field. A short review of five educational forestry related CD-Roms was presented. For a review and complete ordering information on the following CDs, check out the web page for USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Northeastern Area, St. Paul Field Office at willow.ncfes.umn.edu. Look under "New Products," "Educational CD's."

Producer	Title	Cost
Stewards of Family Farms, Forests, & Ranches	Plan It 3	\$49.95
Missouri Department of Conservation	Habitactics	\$12.00
Digital Imaging Associates, Inc.	Forestry	\$24.95
Indiana Forestry Education Foundation	The Central Hard-Woods Virtual Forest	\$15.00
Temperate Forest Foundation	The Miracle Resource	\$29.00

HOT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NAI WORKSHOP - A Celebration of Diversity: Experience the Common, Witness the Unique!

It's time to register for the 1997 National Interpreters Workshop November 8-12 in

Beaumont, Texas. Sponsored by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI), A Celebration of Diversity: Experience the Common, Witness the Unique! will be your personal celebration. If you are an interpreter, manager of an interpretive site, educator, docent, volunteer, student, professor, consultant, or anyone else involved in interpretation (or you'd like to be), this workshop is for you.

Some highlights to anticipate include more than 100 concurrent sessions involving participants with expertise in the following: African-American experience, American Indian interpretation, environmental education, nature center administration, program management/planning/partnerships, resource interpretation, heritage tourism, visual communication, zoos, wildlife parks, aquaria; accessibility, cross-cultural communication, arts in interpretation, professionalism in interpretation, watchable wildlife, electronic communication/Information Superhighway, research, and critical issues.

The Forest Service agency meeting will be November 8 at the Hilton Hotel. Chief Dombeck has been invited to participate in the Federal Agency and NAI Interpretation Awards at the Julie Rogers Theater on November 9.

Due to limited space at the Holiday Inn and Hilton hotels, registration is limited to the first 1,000 people who register. The deadline for early registration (a \$50 savings for members) is September 15. For registration information, contact NAI, P.O. Box 1892, Fort Collins, CO 80522, fax (970) 484-8179, phone (970) 484-8283. For details on the program or scheduling, call Program Chair Lisa Brochu at (512) 285-4105. For details on hotels or other facilities (except reservations), call Workshop Chair Bob Valen at (409) 839-2689 x231.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION TRAINING CENTER

The US Fish & Wildlife Service has moved into the new National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WV. Ten marketing packages have been sent to each Regional Office, Forest Supervisor's Office and Research Station, and the FY 1998 course catalog will be mailed in August. This is designed to raise FS employee awareness about NCTC courses and as a reminder that these and other courses can be found in the electronic data base (TRN) managed by the WO's Corporate Training Office.

For more information, contact: C.Williams:R08B or NCTC's web site: <http://www.fws.gov/> or write to Cindy A. Williams, FS Liaison, US FWS - NCTC, Rt 1, Box 166, Shepherdstown, WV 25443, (304) 876-7466 or (FAX) 876-7551.

Course Title	Date & Location	Tuition
Fish Passageways	8/18-22/97 Iron Mt, MI	\$600
Wildlife Disease Monitoring Workshop (Waterfowl)	8/20-21/97 Lake Arthur, LA	\$300
Introduction to Fish Health	8/18-22/97 Blacksburg, VA	\$600
Computer Application in Fish & Wildlife Management	8/20-22/97 Shepherdstown, WV	\$400
Natural Resource Damage Assessment & Restoration	8/25-29/97 Coeur d'Alene, ID	\$600
Building Community Support	8/25-29/97 Minneapolis, MN	\$600
Principles & Techniques of Electrofishing	9/3-5/97 Shepherdstown, WV	\$400

Sampling Design for Field Applications	9/15-19/97 Shepherdstown, WV	\$600
Conservation Partnerships	9/16-18/97 Pacific NW	\$400
Managing Performance & Conduct	9/22-26/97 Shepherdstown, WV	\$600
Environmental Contaminants Field & Lab Techniques	9/22-26/97 Shepardstown, WV	\$600
Environmental Contaminants Overview	9/23-25/97 Shepherdstown, WV	\$400
GIS Introduction for Conservation Professionals	9/22-24/97 Shepherdstown, WV	\$400
GPS-PLGR Introduction for Federal Field Biologists	9/25-26/97 Shepherdstown, WV	\$300
Interagency Consultation for Endangered Species	10/6-10/97 Shepherdstown, WV	\$600

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