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Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Region 1

January 2013

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The *Northern* Region

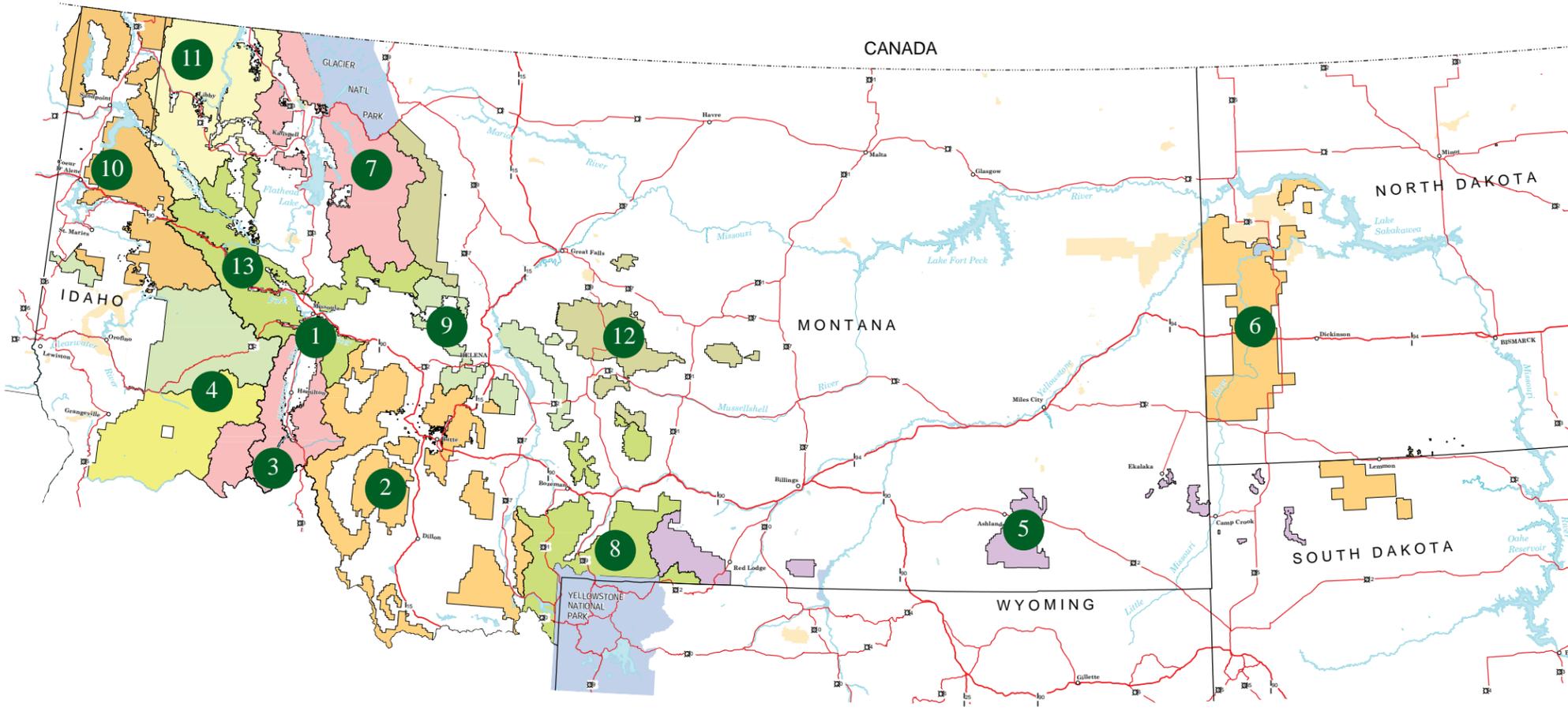


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2012 Year in Review





Region One

A Message from the Regional Forester

Thank you for your interest in the Northern Region of the US Forest Service, designated “Region 1” by the agency. Your interest in our Region and the agency is why we compiled this Year in Review – to highlight and celebrate the successes and advancement that occurred within our Region during 2012.

I encourage you, though, to look at this publication as the bridge to how much more we can accomplish in 2013. We have major challenges ahead, but I believe we have laid a strong foundation in 2012 that will bring us greater successes in the years ahead.

Prominent initiatives and efforts from 2012 will carry strongly into 2013. One of the biggest is ‘collaboration.’ The Northern Region has a long list of valued and highly-active partners involved in many projects. The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program has a large footprint in the Northern Region. Having received substantial funding in 2012, I am excited to see what results we will achieve together in 2013. Collaboration will be part of our Watershed Condition Framework and Climate Change efforts across the agency, as well as our all-lands approach to natural resource restoration.

The Northern Region is one of three piloting the Integrated Resource Restoration Authority to increase our project and resource accomplishments. Referred to as NFRR (a budget job code designation) this Congressional Authority gives line officers the option to leverage funding from different resource programs to increase desired outcomes. It also increases incentives for more partnership and stewardship across landscapes and boundaries to increase the rate of restoration that can be accomplished.

As an agency, the Forest Service rolled out the new Planning Rule, which is the overarching guidance all national forests and grasslands use in developing their natural resource management plans. The Nez Perce-Clearwater NF in Idaho was selected to be an early adopter of this new Planning Rule, helping to lay the groundwork for involving the public early and often that other forests and grasslands will use in the future.

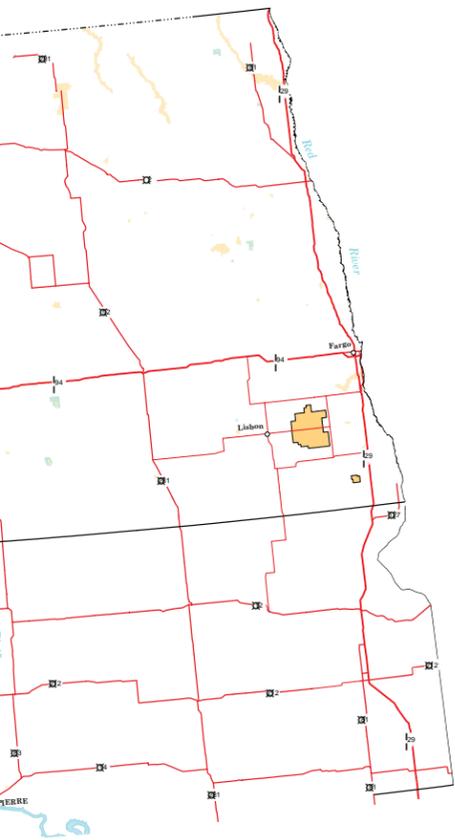
One hallmark of 2012 was the near-record-setting levels of wildfire across the nation, including the Northern Region. Wildfire brings out the best in partnership and cooperation among local, state and federal assets and capabilities at some of our worst times. The Region is looking at the potential impacts we have here from invasive pests and disease, changes in snow pack levels and climate, and forest health conditions as indicators of what we can expect. Along with our local, state and other federal partners, we will apply the best resources and tactics to wildfires in the safest environment we can manage, to continue to safeguard lives, communities and the natural resources.

I look forward to 2013 unfolding, and leading our outstanding Forest Service employees and partners in increasing successes and accomplishments. I encourage everyone to become involved in the collaboration and decision-making for these national assets and resources. We all have a stake in how this agency manages these public lands, and in reaching the desired conditions that benefit the economies and resources of our local communities and our nation for the future.

Faye Krueger



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Forests and Grasslands of the Northern Region

1



Region One
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Missoula, MT 59802
Info: (406) 329-3511



Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
420 Barrett Street
Dillon, MT 59725-3572
Info: (406) 683-3900

2



Gallatin National Forest
10 East Babcock Ave
Bozeman, MT 59771
Info: (406) 587-6701

8



3



Bitterroot National Forest
1801 North First Street
Hamilton, MT 59840
Info: (406) 363-7100

9



Helena National Forest
2880 Skyway Drive
Helena, MT 59601
Info: (406) 449-5201

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544
Info: (208) 476-4541

4



Idaho Panhandle National Forests
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
Info: (208) 765-7223

10



5



Custer National Forest
1310 Main Street,
Billings, MT 59105
Info: (406) 657-6200

11



Kootenai National Forest
31374 U.S. Highway 2
Libby, MT 59923
Info: (406) 293-6211

Dakota Prairie Grasslands
240 West Century Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503
Info: (701) 250-4443

6



Lewis and Clark National Forest
1101 15th Street N
Great Falls, MT 59401
Info: (406) 791-7701

12



7



Flathead National Forest
650 Wolfpack Way
Kalispell, MT 59901
Info: (406) 758-5200

13



Lolo National Forest
Building 24, Fort Missoula
Missoula, MT 59801
Info: (406) 329-3804

CFLR – Lower Kootenai River Watershed Restoration

In 2011, the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and its collaborative partner, the Kootenai Valley Resource initiative, were selected as one of just 10 Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects to receive annual funding over the next ten years. After one field season, the IPNF has already begun implementing with approximately \$324,000 in FY2012 alone. With these funds the forest accomplished more than 1,300 acres of vegetation treatments, 76 acres of tree planting, 560 acres of prescribed fire, 1.9 miles of road decommissioning, 21.7 miles of road improvements, three culvert upgrades, and two culvert removals for fish passage. This work represents just the “tip of the iceberg” as restoration activities are scheduled to increase in future years. In addition to activities on the ground, KVRI and the IPNF are working together to educate the public on restoration activities and needs through field trips and public meetings for out-year projects.

Five Year Action Plan

Building on the forest’s relationships with three local collaborative groups and seeking to leverage their interests for greater success in restoration efforts, the IPNF has developed a strategic Five Year Action Plan for vegetation management. Development of this plan was accomplished collaboratively with representation from all three collaborative groups and representatives from county government across north Idaho. The plan guides prioritization, selection and location for integrated restoration projects across the forest while providing our stakeholders a clear understanding of the rationale for each project’s location and objectives.

In addition to the clarity for vegetation management this plan provides, one of the greatest benefits has been in the trust built among our stakeholders. Inviting collaborative members and local government to participate has helped to educate these groups on the legal requirements, ecological needs and science of forest management, resulting in more meaningful discussion of forest management issues. The forest’s stakeholders have been so pleased with this process that the forest has begun using it as a template to collaboratively address recreation planning.

Restoration

Watershed Restoration Partnerships 2012 Accomplishments Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and the Nez Perce Tribe have been working together since 1996 to improve conditions for fish within North Central Idaho. This partnership is the cornerstone of an 6.5 million dollar per year watershed restoration program on the Forests.

2012 Accomplishments: Clearwater National Forests In 2012 the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests decommissioned 61.4 miles of road and stored 9 using BPA funds through the Nez Perce Tribe, NFRR funds, BPA funds through (retained receipts) funds. In addition, 12 culverts that were barriers to fish passage were replaced with natural bottom culverts or bridges, through partnership with the Tribe, retained receipts and ARRA contracting. Five of these were replaced using funds obligated in previous years. A total of approximately 20 miles of upstream habitat were opened up and 30+ miles of downstream habitat were protected.

Also in 2012, several large channel and meadow restoration projects were completed in partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe, including the Newsome Creek Instream Restoration where 0.55 miles of mined channel and floodplain were restored. Musselshell Tunnel and Channel Relocation, which included realigning a segment of creek to its historic channel opening up 15 miles of fish habitat previously blocked by a mining tunnel, and Deer Gulch Meadow Restoration, where ditched flow was restored to a historic channel and meadow system.

Other restoration projects on the Forests included riparian protection through fencing; planting of native vegetation; weed treatment, and riparian protection at recreation sites. In addition, several large restoration projects are in the survey and design phase.

**2012 Funding for Watershed Restoration
Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests (in thousands of \$)**

BPA Funds through Nez Perce Tribe:	\$ 4,500 K
*Matching funds from FS in BPA project areas:	700 K
*FS funds outside of BPA project areas	300 K
ARRA Funds (obligated 2010)	120 K
Stewardship:	100 K
Retained Receipts:	220 K
CFLRA funds (Clear Cr/ Middle Fork/ Selway):	375 K
RAC funds:	60 K
Other partners	100 K
Total Program Cost:	\$ 6,475 K

Reestablished Floodplain

Dredge piles

Newsome Creek Restoration, before and after removal of mine tailings. Nez Perce National Forest Partnership with Nez Perce Tribe.

Other partners have included Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Idaho Office of Species Conservation, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, Plum Creek Timber Co, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Forest Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, and Idaho Transportation Department, Latah and Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Wildlands CPR, County Highway Districts, and Montana Conservation Corps.

USDA Forest Service Watershed Condition Framework FY2012 WATERSHED IMPROVED THROUGH RESTORATION Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and the Nez Perce Tribe have been working together since 1996 to improve watershed conditions in the Waw'aalamime Creek Watershed on the Powell District of the Clearwater National Forest in North Central Idaho. In 2012, This watershed was moved from a Condition Class 2 (functioning at risk) to a condition class 1 (fully functioning) due to the accomplishment of all essential projects

Accomplishments (essential projects):

- Road decommissioning: completed 96 miles 1996-2010
- Riparian road upgrades: 10 miles completed 2009-2011. Maintenance ongoing
- Stream crossings: 10 fish barriers removed /repaired/replaced (1996-2010). Numerous (100 - 200 headwater stream crossings removed/repaired/replaced.
- Invasive Species Treatment: 10 miles of system road annually; 10 miles of decommissioned roads annually (ongoing)
- Dispersed campsite riparian protection: 3 sites
- Road Maintenance: 45 miles (ongoing)
- Large Woody Debris Inventory and Maintenance

**Funding for Watershed Restoration
Waw'aalamime Creek Watershed 1996 -2012
Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests (in thousands of \$)**

BPA Funds through Nez Perce Tribe:	\$ 703 K
Forest Service Funds	\$ 855 K
ERFO Funds	\$ 150 K
Other partners	\$ 60 K
Total Program Cost:	\$ 1,768 K
*FS funds include NFES, CMLG, NFVW, NFWF, CMI and CMRD	

**Contact Person & phone number:
Anne Connor, Watershed Restoration Hydrologist
208-476-8235**

West Fork Waw'aalamime Creek, culvert outlet before and after replacement.

Stream Adjacent road drainage improvement and surfacing, before and after.

Doe Creek Road Decommissioning, before and after. Partnership with Nez Perce Tribe.

Other partners have included Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Idaho Office of Species Conservation, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Forest Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Wildlands CPR, and Montana Conservation Corps.



Idaho Youth Conservation Corps

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and Clearwater Basin Collaborative completed various forest and watershed restoration projects funded through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP).

Since 2010, the forests received more than \$8.4 million in CFLRP funding to complete restoration work including: weed inventories and treatments, road decommissioning, maintenance and stabilization, culvert replacements, trail maintenance, wildlife habitat improvements, fuel reduction, and landscape restoration.

Recently, the forests received \$4 million to complete restoration work despite declining budgets. The Forests leveraged the funding to grow the accelerated restoration program Forest-wide.

Significant CFLRP achievements include:

- Implementation of the Interface Fuels timber sale designed to reduce fuels on nearly 1,200 acres of public lands surrounding the communities of Syringa and Lowell, Idaho. This sale is expected to contribute more than eight million board feet of timber;
- The Lodge Point Stewardship Sale contributed more than three million board feet of timber while improving forest health on more than 600 acres;
- Continued support of the Idaho Youth Conservation Corps program;
- Completion of numerous aquatic restoration projects; and,
- Partnerships developed with the Nez Perce Tribe.

The purpose of the CFLRP is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. The Program expands collaborative landscape partnerships to:

- Encourage ecological, economic, and social sustainability;
- leverage local resources with national and private resources;
- Facilitate the reduction of wildfire management costs, through re-establishing natural fire regimes and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire;
- Demonstrate the degree to which various ecological restoration techniques achieve ecological and watershed health objectives; and,
- Encourage utilization of forest restoration by-products to offset treatment costs, to benefit local rural economies, and to improve forest health.



Contractors stage logs at a landing site on the Interface Fuels timber sale.

Southwestern Crown Collaborative Stimulates Local Economies

The Southwestern Crown Collaborative (SWCC) is bolstering local economies, improving forest health, and training the leaders of tomorrow. Since 2010, the SWCC created or maintained an estimated 239 full and part-time jobs contributing approximately \$12.6 million of labor income annually.

In 2010, the SWCC was selected in a competitive process to receive up to \$4 million annually for 10 years to implement and monitor developed fuel reduction and restoration projects. Under the CFLR programs, these federal funds must be matched one-to-one, thus resulting in an \$8 million investment in the landscape annually.

The SWCC is a diverse group of conservation, economic development, government, rural community, and forest products industry partners that came together out of a shared commitment to the SWCC landscape. This landscape comprises the Blackfoot, Clearwater, and Swan River valleys on the Helena, Lolo and Flathead National Forests.

To date, SWCC sold 32 million board feet of saw timber and utilized 138,311 green tons of biomass. Various restoration projects have treated 2,783 acres of wildland urban interface and 18,834 acres of noxious weeds on public lands with 19 miles of stream habitat improved.

Some of the jobs created through the SWCC are the result of successful partnership agreements. An agreement between the Forest Service and Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) contributed to the completion of trail maintenance work in the SWCC landscape. One of the 10-year goals is to maintain and improve 280 miles of trails. So far, 268 miles of trail were restored with help from the MCC. Many MCC crew members are aspiring natural resource professionals gaining valuable field experience at this early stage in their careers.

Partnership agreements leverage public and private funds to expand the impact of this important restoration work and they are a vital tool by which the SWCC is meeting its restoration and monitoring goals. To date, approximately \$1.5 million in CFLR funds were invested in partnership agreements. These funds leveraged an additional \$1.1 million in matching and in-kind services.

In July 2012, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell highlighted the SWCC as a vital program supporting the President's America's Great Outdoors initiative. The SWCC is one of 10 Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) projects nationally.

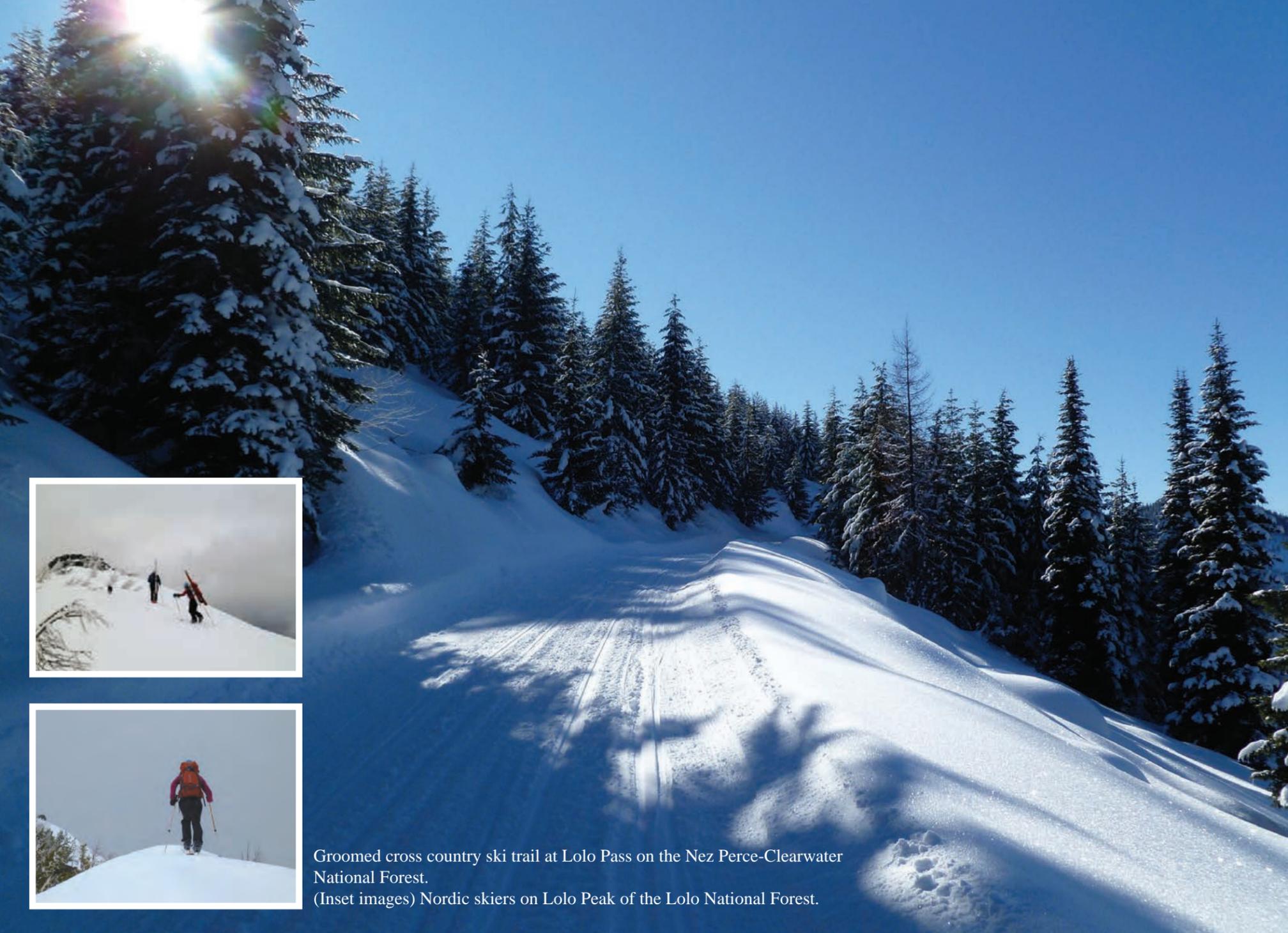
NFRR – Piloting a Budget Change to Objective Accomplishments

The needs of Americans and our lands have changed in the 21st century and so, too, has the way in which the Forest Service must achieve its mission. A changing climate and other stressors are threatening America's forest-dependent communities and watersheds. Forested landscapes are becoming more vulnerable to fire, invasive species and epidemics of insects and disease, while critical watersheds are increasingly impacted by changing hydrological regimes. Addressing these challenges requires an integrated approach.

The Forest Service originally proposed Integrated Resource Restoration as a simplified budget line item in the President's FY 2011 budget. This proposal was continued in the President's FY 2012 budget with some modifications based on what we learned from the FY11 proposal. The FY 2012 package included a more comprehensive suite of programs that better highlight the spectrum of restoration work by the Forest Service. The budget also more clearly recognizes the importance of leveraging forest products and

biomass utilization to provide jobs and bolster the economic infrastructure for needed restoration work over the long term. IRR also establishes a more robust framework for accountability in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and, as improved, will facilitate a more holistic approach to landscape management that integrates social, economic and ecological values.

Regions 1, 3, and 4 were selected as part of an agency pilot program to demonstrate the advantages of merging multiple budget line items (BLIs) into one— NFRR. The other regions were not authorized to consolidate BLIs but will integrate programs within the existing limits of authority. The focus on integrating various programs complements other ongoing efforts such as the Planning Rule revision, Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration projects, travel management, and the watershed condition framework, which are similarly anticipated to promote integration of various resource activities.



Groomed cross country ski trail at Lolo Pass on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest.
 (Inset images) Nordic skiers on Lolo Peak of the Lolo National Forest.

Forest Highlights

Thompson Park Celebrates Renovation Work

In 2007, the City-County of Butte-Silver Bow, in a partnership with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, applied for a Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP) grant to restore lost recreation opportunities. The grant was approved to rehabilitate and construct six day-use picnic areas and trailheads, construct and improve trails in Thompson Park to provide loop opportunities and connections with the Milwaukee Railroad and Continental Divide National Scenic Trail for non-motorized recreation, and provide interpretation throughout the park at the recreation sites. Interpretive signing was completed this past summer followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony. Additional funding was provided by the Forest Service and Recreation Trails Program.

Contractors completed most of the road and recreation site work while volunteers from partner organizations finished the trail work. Among the partners are Americorps St. Louis, Montana Conservation Corps, Highland Cycling Club, and Mile High Back Country Horsemen.

Thompson Park and the surrounding area offer more than 25 miles of non-motorized trails that connect to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail from Blacktail Canyon and Eagles Nest trailheads. One motorized trail, Herman Gulch, travels through portions of the park. Four day-use areas provide picnicking opportunities: Nine Mile, Sagebrush Flats, Lower Eagles Nest, and Lion's Den.

Established in 1922 by an Act of Congress, Thompson Park encompasses approximately 3,500 acres. Its roots are with Colonel William Boyce Thompson who donated placer claims to the City of Butte for a park in 1915. Col. Thompson was the founder of Newmont Mining. The park was named for his father, William Thompson, who was the mayor of Butte in 1895. Thompson Park is the only congressionally-designated Municipal Recreation Area in the National Forest system. In 1935, over 250 local W.P.A. workers began to clear Thompson Park to construct roads, picnic areas, trails, ski jumps and other amenities.



Local officials join the Beaverhead-Deerlodge leadership team in rededicating Thompson Park following the park's rehabilitation project in July, 2012.

Where East Coast Meets the Rocky Mountains

Refreshing Montana's First Dude Ranch

Dude ranches have always kindled America's fascination with the West. The historic OTO Dude Ranch, hidden in the mountains north of Gardiner, Montana on the Gardiner Ranger District of the Gallatin National Forest helped begin this city dweller's love affair with the rugged wilds of the northern Rockies.

James Norris "Dick" Randall was a cowboy, hunter, pack guide, and rancher who owned the OTO Ranch from 1898 to 1934. The OTO is credited as Montana's first dude ranch whose beginnings were as a working cattle ranch. As people chose to vacation on a working ranch the OTO became a place for hunters to get together. Dick Randall began driving tourists into Yellowstone National Park by stagecoach, a job that helped him establish friendships to start up the OTO. Dick's esteemed guest book includes the likes of Theodore Roosevelt and General Von Hindenburg of Germany.

The OTO Ranch had various owners until 1989 when the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation purchased it and transferred the title to the Forest Service in 1990. The OTO was acquired foremost to protect additional winter range for the Yellowstone elk herd and to retain the high value grizzly bear habitat in this area. Since 2004, the site has been on the National Register of Historic Places.

Time and weather have not been kind to the OTO – many buildings, particularly the historic lodge, are in need of significant stabilization work. This summer, the efforts of volunteers through the Passport in Time Program, Family and Friends of the OTO Foundation, and the Forest Service made headway on these stabilization efforts thanks to a \$40,000 grant to help restore the Highly Sensitive Endangered buildings. The majority of the grant money was spent on shingling the west side of the 6,000-square-foot log lodge roof.

Nearly \$100,000 and more than 2,500 volunteer hours have helped stabilize the OTO since it was acquired by the Forest Service. With considerable help from the Northern Region's preservation specialists, the Forest remains determined to preserve this once bustling reminder of a by-gone era.

Treasured Landscapes - Lightning Creek

In the spring of 2012, the IPNF competed for, and was selected, to take part in the National Forest Foundation's Treasured Landscape Program. The IPNF is just one of only 14 forests in the nation to be selected for this program in which the NFF will raise at least \$300,000 over the next five years to conduct ecological restoration projects within the IPNF's Lightning Creek Watershed.

A national announcement was made during the summer, which identified the IPNF as a Treasured Landscape location, however the official rollout for this location is not scheduled to occur until the spring 2013. Currently the forest has worked in cooperation with NFF to identify potential donors, conduct outreach to local homeowners and businesses, and has scheduled an art benefit for the program in the first week of April 2013.

Forest Highlights

Walk by the Light of the Moon

The Beartooth Ranger District of the Custer and Gallatin National Forests hosts an annual program allowing participants to walk under the light of the moon while exploring their public lands. The District partners with guest speakers and resource experts from more than 20 businesses, organizations and groups to highlight local and relevant natural resource topics every month. This monthly engagement is known in the Red Lodge community as the full moon jaunt or walkabout, engaging community members in natural history and resource management discussions in an informational and informal venue. The setting? Out your backdoor – on National Forest System trails - under the light of the moon.

"It's a great way for folks, local business and visitors to interact with members of the Forest Service and our partners. The relationships built through this monthly event are invaluable, people from all different organizations love to share what they do and to speak about their passion," said Traute Parrie, District Ranger on the Beartooth Ranger District. Some of the short adventures have included cross-country skiing; identifying native wildflower; looking, listening and learning about cedar waxwings; whitebark pine and juniper ecology; as well as developing a deep appreciation for the cultural and native history engrained in the southeastern Montana way of life. Participants of all ages join in large numbers. Winter and



summer walks draw crowds of 50 – 100 people. Walks take place in the evening, just a couple nights prior to the full moon to take advantage of the earlier moonrise. Speakers are scattered throughout the walk and share information over the course of the approximately two-hour excursion.

Engaging Urban America: Madison Ranger District Pollinator Garden



The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest's Madison Ranger District office features new interpretive signs along a walking path that relays the importance of pollinators, native species identification, water wise landscaping, and invasive species identification.

This display has become an important educational tool for the district and it all came about through an effort led by Range Conservationist Kaye Suzuki.

The idea to improve landscaping around the building with an interpretive display of Montana native pollinating plants came about during the recent expansion to the district office. Plant materials native to southwest Montana were obtained from local Montana growers.

In addition to highlighting native plants, Kaye's landscaping initiative helped reduce water consumption and the need for lawn mowing assisting with the district's efforts toward energy conservation. The trees and shrubs also provide energy savings by shading the south and west walls of the office during the summer months.

Law Enforcement and Investigations:

Backcountry Mounted Enforcement Patrol Program

The Backcountry Mounted Enforcement Program, part of the Region's Law Enforcement and Investigations team, was recognized for its improved response and approaches to patrolling the backcountry and Wilderness areas in 2012.

Many Wilderness and other backcountry areas of the national forests attract growing numbers of visitors each year, and with them come the increased potential for conflicts and criminal activities. Special Agent in Charge Jon Herrick, based in Missoula, brought on Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Kevin Arnold to supplement the LE&I team, covering these roadless areas to improve employee and visitor safety. Arnold works in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex on active investigations there as well as other Wilderness areas in the Region.

"The forests, particularly the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, appreciate the presence and visibility that this mounted patrol has brought, contributing to better compliance and understanding of the existing laws and rules," commented Deb Mucklow, district ranger for the Spotted Bear Ranger District. "There is an increased awareness and sense of safety among Wilderness and backcountry visitors and our employees, partners and volunteers (because of this mounted patrol presence)."

These groups know that law enforcement values their input and observations. They also appreciate law enforcement's quick responses to difficult situations that Wilderness visitors or employees and partners previously had to resolve themselves.



Highlights

Forest Fights Beetle Epidemic Around Campgrounds

The Bitterroot National Forest implemented several projects to protect popular campgrounds and recreation areas from the mountain pine beetle. Thousands of beetle-killed hazard trees were removed from 12 campgrounds on the West Fork and Sula Ranger Districts in January 2012. These campgrounds were closed for public safety during the logging operations.

Timber sanitation/salvage projects also took place around Lake Como near Darby and at the Lost Trail Ski Area near Sula, Montana. These popular recreation destinations receive an estimated 300,000 visitors annually. The Forest also protected 2,500 large pine trees with an insecticide spray in high-use campgrounds and recreation sites.

More than 100,000 acres of the Bitterroot National Forest have trees killed by bark beetles over the last two years.

Backcountry Horsemen Contributing Time and Muscle to Trail Work

The Wildhorse Plains Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen joined forces with the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District and Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) trail crews to clear and improve trails on the ranger district under a new five-year agreement with the Forest Service.

The partnership adds capacity for their stock to clear logs and rocks from trails, carry supplies and tools for restoration work, clear culverts and ditches, and repair water bars – all critical but sometimes unnoticed components that keep a trail system accessible and usable.

The two organizations also share expertise and skills in a series of workshops and training sessions that ultimately benefits public users of the trails. The Backcountry Horsemen spent a day with members of a YCC crew to demonstrate how



stock must negotiate a trail and why trail widths and switchbacks are required to be a certain size.

"They really appreciated that, seeing how wide a trail needs to be, especially for a horse that has pack saddles," said Lisa Read, of the Wildhorse Plains Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen.

The partnership began this year out of a shared desire to keep specific, heavily used trails clear and free of debris. The Plains/Thompson Falls District has a trail system that includes almost 350 miles of trail, and countless water bars, drainage systems, and retaining structures across its 490,550 acres. To keep those miles clear for trail users, the district trail managers must prioritize based on public demand and need.

"With our maintenance budget, a two-person trail maintenance crew can only make it so far," said District Trail Program Manager Dave Wroblewski. "Backcountry Horsemen members are eager to have a well-maintained, usable trail system and that makes them very enthusiastic to work with."

In 2012, the Backcountry Horsemen provided the needed logistics to pack in tools and equipment to begin restoration of the Big Hole Fire Lookout on the district. That work will likely continue in 2013.

Highlights

Oil development Boosts Local Economies in the Badlands of North Dakota

Oil and gas exploration and development across North Dakota has significantly changed the landscape in several ways, and in particular how the Dakota Prairie Grasslands (DPG) handles impacts from that development. North Dakota now ranks #2 in the US for oil production surpassing Alaska in oil production for 2012, and placing a large workload on the DPG for myriad support elements.

The DPG currently has more than 600 active oil and gas wells located on the Little Missouri National Grassland and activity and interest remains extremely high. With the activity comes the associated increase in the use of the public lands and facilities such as recreation sites and roads along with dispersed recreation.

The development of oil and gas fields and production is increasing workloads and demands for services in local communities and on Forest Service sites and facilities. Watford City is just one town struggling to meet the rapid housing demands of temporary and permanent residents. The Northern Region assisted the DPG by providing three modular homes for the McKenzie Ranger District in Watford City. The houses are important and much needed to support new employees.

But DPG leadership also sees opportunity among the increased workloads and demands on the public lands there. DPG program managers are in discussions with the North Dakota Petroleum Council (where many oil companies are members) and others to look at opportunities to partner in managing increased demands. There are increasing opportunities for a broad range of partnerships among the oil and gas industry, local communities and Tribal governments with the Forest Service for cultural, conservation and stewardship aspects as development increases into 2013.

Partnership Ensures Land Remains Open to Public

Popular trails in the Deer Creek area near Missoula are now connected thanks to a partnership between The Nature Conservancy and US Forest Service. The Forest Service purchased more than 2,000 acres in the lower end of Deer Creek Road and around the base of University Mountain providing recreational opportunities for hikers, bicyclists, runners, picnickers, and visitors just looking for a scenic getaway close to town. The land will also connect the Lolo National Forest with the new Milltown/Two Rivers State Park.

Deer Creek is also a valuable spawning and rearing tributary for Westslope cutthroat trout. The creek is unique in that it supports a large, genetically-pure population of this native fish. Westslope cutthroat trout are classified as a “species of concern” in Montana due to their decreasing numbers and distribution.

The former industrial timberland (480 acres in Petty Creek and 1,709 in Deer Creek) was purchased from Plum Creek Timber by the Conservancy in 2008 as part of its Montana Legacy Project. In 2010, the USFS purchased 57,450 acres of Legacy land on the Missoula Ranger District – including parcels in the Deer Creek drainage just east of the Pattee Canyon Recreation Area and in the Lolo Creek area.

“This is another step in fulfilling our vision for the Legacy Project; to conserve the natural bounty of this land and ensure it remains open to the public as a place to work and play for many generations to come,” adds Kat Imhoff, State Director for The Nature Conservancy in Montana.

The Conservancy did extensive cleanup in this area. The agency also enforced regulations on previously unmanaged and destructive off-road use.

The purchase was made through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Congress established the fund in 1964 using monies raised through fees paid by companies drilling offshore for oil and gas.

Elkhorn Ranch Listed on National Register of Historic Places

The Elkhorn Ranch and Greater Elkhorn Ranchlands were officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic District in 2012. The Elkhorn Ranch and Ranchlands are located on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands in North Dakota, home to our 26th US President, Theodore Roosevelt. The historic



district includes 4,402 acres, of which 2,380 acres fall under Forest Service management; 218 acres under the National Park Service; and the remaining 1,804 acres privately owned by the Jay Clements Ranch.

Various partners worked with the Forest Service to acquire the Elkhorn Ranchlands in 2007 based upon the national significance connected to Theodore Roosevelt and the importance of these lands in conservation history. The Boone and Crockett Club, Friends of the Elkhorn, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and other American Wildlife Conservation partners raised more than \$1 million to help fund the Forest Service acquisition and associated land restoration of the Elkhorn Ranch.

The Forest Service and North Dakota State Historical Preservation Office determined by consensus that the Elkhorn Ranch was National Register-eligible in 2008 in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NHPA requires federal agencies to identify, evaluate and nominate to the National Register cultural resources significant in local, regional or national history. Nomination is usually reserved for the most significant properties on federal lands. National Register listing is largely honorary but helps to recognize the truly important places in history –the Elkhorn meets this level of significance.

For his part, President Roosevelt was an outspoken outdoorsman and advocate for the management and conservation of public lands. It was his association with Gifford Pinchot that led to the establishment of the US Forest Service in 1905, with Pinchot as its first Chief.

Team Effort Clears Massive Landslide to Reopen Popular Recreation Trail

Bitterroot National Forest employees alongside crew members from the Montana Conservation Corps reopened Blodgett Pass Trail closed by a massive rockslide in 2010.

A partnership between the Forest and the Ravalli County Resource Advisory Committee funded this project to reopen the popular trail. The force of the slide and the weight of the rock - approximately 325 tons of granite - wiped out entire sections of the historic trail. Since then, the trail has been impassable to stock and difficult and dangerous for hikers to navigate.

The Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) along with Forest Service personnel worked on-site throughout the summer to clear boulders, some the size of pickup trucks, by hand, rigging, and blasting. Some of the rocks were used to re-build portions of the trail including retaining walls, water bars and more than 50 check dams.

International Group Visits Wilderness Areas

The Bitterroot National Forest hosted 25 international visitors as part of the 2012 International Seminar on Protected Area Management (ISPAM). Participants stayed at the historic Magruder Ranger Station located on the West Fork Ranger District between the Frank Church – River of No Return and Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness areas.

The group learned about issues involving wilderness and outfitter management, threatened and endangered species and fire management. The international group also educated Forest Service personnel about similar programs in their own countries.

Attendees included ecologists, park managers, biologists, researchers, and foresters from Colombia, Sierra Leone, Congo, Nigeria, Armenia, Russia, Ukraine, Egypt, Israel, India, Gabon, Cameroon, Belarus, Thailand, Zambia, Cambodia, and Brazil.

ISPAM is sponsored by the Forest Service’s International Programs Office, the University of Montana, University of Idaho, and Colorado State University.

Northern Region Teams Respond to Superstorm Sandy



It took more than 10 days for Hurricane Sandy to make its slow trek up the Eastern Seaboard. At about 8 p.m. on October 29, a downgraded Tropical storm Sandy came ashore near Atlantic City. By the time it hit land, it had already deluged much of the

east coast, from Washington DC north to Boston. Sandy's landfall coincided with a full moon, making the storm surge much worse than predicted. Within 72 hours, "Superstorm" Sandy had affected some 50 million people as far west as the Great Lakes, and from the Carolinas to Maine, making it one of the most far-reaching and destructive storms to hit the US.

Before the rains had subsided and the winds quieted, however, emergency response and specialty crews from all over the US began to assemble and stage in nearby Pennsylvania and Delaware, waiting to follow in the storm's path to provide a wide range of emergency services to the battered area. One of the first issues these crews had to overcome – access.

Beyond the destruction to the infrastructure, buildings, and homes, hundreds of thousands of trees and debris blocked the only way in to some of the hard-hit areas. Even as the storm was clearing the New England area, the call had gone out for sawyers and crews from the US Forest Service and more than 200 firefighters and crews from Region 1 responded.

The Northern Rockies Geographic Area (N. Idaho, Montana, North Dakota and Yellowstone NP) mobilized an 11-person short Type 2 Incident Management Team (IMT), 10 20-person crews heavily staffed with certified sawyers, and 13 miscellaneous support overhead for a total of 224 personnel (178 from MT; 40 from ID; 6 from WY) to support Hurricane Sandy cleanup. These resources came from Montana local government, the Montana DNRC, Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, US Forest Service, Blackfeet Agency, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes and Yellowstone NP.

The Northern Rockies Western Montana Type 2 IMT managed road clearing assignments out of Fort Dix, NJ. On any given day, the IMT utilized up to 26 crews. Nine Northern Rockies crews were directly assigned under our



IMT. Their mission objectives were to assist in opening and clearing publicly owned roads, rights-of-ways, and public emergency access routes. The IMT reported a total of 714 miles of roads and access routes were cleared during their deployment. Our 10th 20-person crew was assigned to the Type 1 IMT that was managing the mobilization center in Fort Dix, NJ.

Emergency responders on many of the scenes where these crews worked could not believe the progress and skill that these crews employed to clear roads and remove debris to facilitate other emergency response work. Residents, city council members and town mayors lauded the exceptional skill and speed with which the Northern Region crews worked. One official commented that he had to arrange for many more trucks to keep up with the amount of debris the crews cleared from roads in one neighborhood.

After more than a week in the area, crews and crewmembers began to return to the Region. The last group to return was the 'overhead' or incident management team, having spent almost two weeks on-site assisting in the cleanup efforts.

2012 Fire Season

Fire acreage for the nation – 9 million

One-tenth of Montana, or:

More than 30% larger than Massachusetts – 6,752,000

Ten percent larger than Maryland – 7,942,400

Almost twice the size of New Jersey – 5,586,560

Almost three times the size of Connecticut – 3,547,520

More than 10 times the size of Long Island, NY – 896,000

Half of the entire state of West Virginia – 15,507,200

Nationally, the cost of 2012 fires, at \$1.6 billion, is almost as much as the entire GDP for the US Virgin Islands.



Sawtooth Fire, Bitterroot NF

Fire acreage for R1 – 1.43 million

Twice the size of Rhode Island – 775,680

Virtually all of Delaware – 1,594,240

Fire officials compare the 2012 fire season to the Great Fires of 1910, known across much of Idaho and Montana as the worst fire season on record. The Northern Rockies Coordination Center reports more than 1.1 million acres burned in Montana. The forests east of the Continental Divide were hardest hit with record high temperatures starting in June with little rainfall. Fires started early in the summer due to worsening drought conditions.

Five major fires on the Custer and Gallatin National Forests consumed more than 341,221 acres; 164,984 acres on national forest system lands. Numerous other fires ignited on state, private, BLM and BIA lands across the state. Of the 62 total fires on the Gallatin National Forest, 29 of them were lightning caused and 33 human caused. On the Custer National Forest, five fires were human-caused and 36 lightning caused. Firefighters across the state fought fires well into September. The Ashland Ranger District on the Custer National Forest managed one of Montana's largest fires. The 249,549 acre Ash Creek Fire started on June 25, followed by the 62,111 acre Taylor Creek Fire, which burned BLM and private lands, on July 3.

Late into August, following a significant lightning storm, several smaller fires started on the Gallatin National Forest. On August 28, the Millie Fire started and burned 10,515 acres throughout September and October. Shortly after the Millie Fire was declared out on November 9, the human-caused Pine Creek Fire ignited and burned 8,572 acres before season-ending rains put it out.

Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Teams worked throughout the fall and winter on rehabilitation efforts following the fires on both forests. Emergency response activities include hazard tree removal of dangerous snags along roadside corridors and campground facilities, slope stabilization efforts, grass seeding, infrastructure repair, and culvert replacement. With large fires, rainwater and soil sediment runoff is a major concern in regards to engineering infrastructures, roads, drainage culverts, and water flow across the landscape.

With significantly less vegetative cover, thunderstorms producing a large amount of storm water runoff have a greater impact and can wash away necessary nutrients. Many culvert replacements are scheduled for spring and summer 2013 in anticipation of significant runoff. An additional concern into the 2013 field season is the sustained emphasis on the eradication of noxious weeds. A number of agencies will continue to work together to lessen the impact of noxious weed infestations and infrastructure damages such as fencing within the agricultural community from the Ash and Taylor Creek Fires.

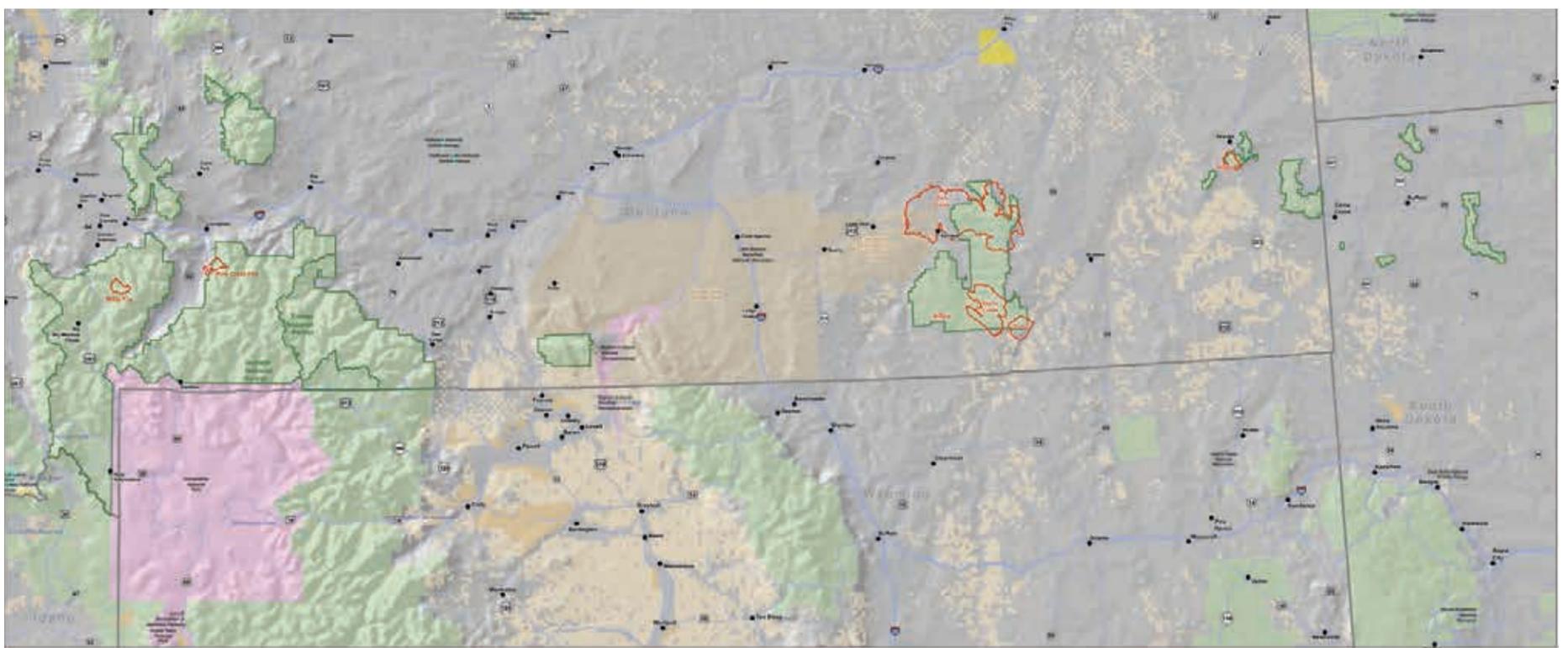
Custer and Gallatin National Forest fires burned a total of 311,660 acres.

USFS - 142,585
Private - 116,755
BIA - 42,466
DNRC - 8,357
BLM - 1,008

Fires damaged and destroyed hundreds of miles of fencing along the Custer National Forest boundary. The fires also burned 39 structures and suppression costs totaled \$7.5 million.

The Taylor Creek Fire ignited June 25 and burned 62,111 acres of the Custer National Forest

2012 Fire Season Custer and Gallatin National Forests



Gallatin and Custer National Forests Large Fires 2012

State & Private Forestry

State & Private Forestry Program Highlights for 2012 Point to Increased 2013 Successes

State & Private Forestry is one of the three main components of the US Forest Service, along with the National Forest System of lands, and Research. State & Private Forestry covers an area that includes Regions 1 and 4, so many of the overall accomplishments cover adjoining and common areas of both Regions. This provides added leverage to increase potential opportunities available to each Region.

The S&PF organization reaches across the boundaries of National Forests to States, Tribes, communities and non-industrial private landowners. S&PF is the federal leader in providing technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the Nation's forests and protect communities and the environment from wildland fires.

State and Private Forestry programs bring forest management assistance and expertise to a wide range of landowners, including small woodlot, tribal, state, and federal, through cost-effective, non-regulatory partnerships. The staffs play a key role, along with others within the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, in implementing the National Fire Plan to manage the impacts of wildland fires on communities and the environment.

State & Private Forestry encompasses a wide range of programs that includes Cooperative Forestry, Forest Health Protection, Tribal Relations, Fire and Aviation, Urban & Community Forestry, Conservation Education, and Sustainable Development.

FY12 Grant Funding levels, by state, for all programs

STATE	FY12 Grant Funding
Idaho	\$6,620,800
Montana	\$13,022,500
North Dakota	\$2,137,900
Total	21,781,200

Fire & Aviation

The Northern Region, working in partnership with State & Private Forestry proposed special projects that take an integrated approach to reducing wildfire risk and protecting natural resources. Together, these pilot projects provide a model for the implementation of the Cohesive Strategy in the West by focusing on two of the three national goals outlined in the Strategy (1) Protecting Communities and (2) Restoring the Landscape. Funds will be tracked separately to document accomplishments. Each state received \$400,000 in year-end funds for implementation.

Region Target FY 2012:	95,342 Acres
Accomplishment in FACTS 8/31/12:	65,244 Acres
Anticipated Additional Accomplishments: (Contracts, Timber Sales, Force Account)	23,000 Acres
Estimated Accomplishment:	88,000 Acres
WUI Acres Accomplished:	21,845 Acres
Fuels Accomplished with NFRR:	14,464 Acres

2012 Outstanding Achievement Award for Forest Pathology



Dr. John Schwandt, Ph.D., peels the bark from a diseased tree to gauge the impact of the disease to the tree and surrounding trees during project work in 2012.

A Forest Service pathologist was awarded the **2012 Outstanding Achievement Award for Forest Pathology** at the annual Western International Forest Disease Work Conference.

Dr. John Schwandt, Ph.D., a Forest Pathologist with Forest Health Protection (FHP) section of State & Private Forestry based at the Coeur d'Alene Field Office, was honored for his career achievements in pathology and forest health protection by the organization's Select Committee for this year's award.

This award recognizes outstanding achievement in, or contribution to, the

field of forest pathology in western North America, and is awarded at the discretion of the Awards Committee.

"Being recognized by my peers for this award is the highlight of my career, but I feel that I am accepting this award on behalf of the many dedicated and talented people that have assisted me along the way," Dr. Schwandt commented on his selection for the Award. He further stated that he greatly appreciated the support of FHP during his career and was proud of the accomplishments of the unit to which he has contributed over the years.

The Award is the most prestigious award that a professional forest pathologist can receive, and recognizes lifetime achievement in forest tree disease issues. It was presented to Dr. Schwandt in October at the annual Western International Forest Disease Work Conference.

During his successful career, Dr. Schwandt has made significant contributions at all levels of forest pathology and related fields and disciplines. These include:

- More than 40 years as professional forest pathologist – 15 as the State Pathologist of Idaho and 27 with USFS, State & Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection;
- Extensive monitoring of whitebark pine blister rust (an exotic disease);
- Documented impacts on western white pine, and the value of pruning as a treatment to greatly enhance survival;
- Served as Program Coordinator for National FHP Whitebark Pine Restoration Program for 6 years;
- Led to selection and coordinated funding of more than 200 restoration projects that provided more than \$2 million in restoration projects; and
- Authored several hundred professional and scientific papers dealing with forest diseases, and has taught several thousand foresters and woodland owners about the impacts and proper management of important forest diseases.

Dr. Schwandt was also Co-chair of the annual Kootenai County Arbor Day program, giving out seedlings to all 4th graders in the county every year. His contributions to this effort totaled more than 55,000 seedlings during his 25-year stewardship of this program.

Douglas-fir tussock moth project in 2012- Idaho Department of Lands



Mature and nearly mature Douglas-fir tussock moth caterpillars in northern Idaho, July 2012.

The Douglas-fir tussock moth (DFTM) is a defoliator native to western North America that periodically reaches outbreak levels in northern Idaho. In Idaho, DFTM feeds on grand fir and Douglas-fir and can cause tree mortality with two years of heavy feeding. Outbreaks have occurred in the Idaho Panhandle every decade since the 1940's, which subside within two to four years due to natural enemies such as parasites, predators and a native viral disease specific to the tussock moth. The current outbreak started north of Coeur d'Alene in 2009, and reached its peak in 2011 with more than 68,000 acres of defoliation.

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) typically uses Consolidated Grant funds from State & Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection, to conduct aerial and ground surveys to delimit the extent of outbreaks and assess the potential for serious defoliation in the following year. Supplemental funding was awarded to IDL in 2011 to assist with a suppression project on private lands if there was enough public interest.

An extensive survey of DFTM egg masses was conducted during the fall of 2011 and indicated that defoliation was likely to occur in several areas in 2012. Preparations were made to conduct an aerial suppression program if there was sufficient interest. Beginning in early 2012, letters and supplementary information were sent to more than 1000 landowners, informing them of



Members of the City of Boise city council observe and discuss the tree canopy of their city during a field trip guided by researchers from State & Private Forestry and the Idaho Department of Lands.



Douglas-fir tussock moth caterpillars hatching, northern Idaho, June 2012.

the outbreak development and announcing two public meetings to be held in February. The meetings were well attended, and 59 landowners owning more than 4500 acres indicated some interest in treating their properties. Recognizing that the native virus can cause a collapse in DFTM populations, IDL contracted with the University of Idaho (UI) to conduct a virus assay to determine the level of naturally occurring virus and parasites in the overwintering population. The viral assay was completed in early May, showing high levels of virus in some areas but not others. The decision was made to proceed with a suppression effort.

IDL contracted with a consultant to coordinate spraying, hire an aerial applicator and make the applications according to state and federal regulations. A total of 14 landowners eventually participated, and 616 acres were sprayed with Mimic, to regulate insect growth, on June 29th. IDL monitored larval development to determine the proper timing for the application. Larval counts taken before and approximately 2.5 weeks after spraying showed that larval levels were reduced by some 90 percent. The outbreak collapsed due to natural controls, but more than 20,000 acres were defoliated by August. The applications prevented further damage to those landowners that participated.

The project was successful and well received by participants. The surveys, outreach and project coordination that were made possible with programmatic and special funds were instrumental in this success.



A helicopter equipped with spray arms and tanks, applies insecticides to a timber stand in northern Idaho to protect the area from advance of Douglas-fir tussock moths in northern Idaho in June, 2012.

State & Private Forestry

F.H. Stoltze Lumber – a Biomass Success

F.H. Stoltze is an integrated forest management company that has been in continuous operation just west of Columbia Falls, Montana, since 1912. The mill began its first Forest Service contract in the early 1920s, beginning a long and successful partnership of quality forest management project work and economic support to the surrounding communities. Over the years, the company has worked to redesign and retool their operations to meet either increased or decreased demand and availability of timber for wood products. In recent years the company made the decision to move into biomass and power generation to bolster both their current operation and position themselves for future changes in both Forest Service work and changes in the market.

With the assistance of the Forest Service, Stoltze was able to meet a December 31, 2011 deadline required for the Recovery Act 30 percent grant in lieu of production/investment tax credit. This synergy was critical to enabling the mill to become a renewable electricity producer, avoiding a missed opportunity if they had been forced to replace their aging heat-only system.

In August, 2012 Stoltze celebrated the company's centennial with a ground-breaking for their cogeneration facility. The new co-gen plant expands the capacity of the lumber mill, and provides a residual power benefit for the company and the local community. When fully operational, the biomass facility will sell up to 2.5 megawatts of electricity to the Flathead (MT) Cooperative, with excess heat diverted to dry lumber in the mills dry kilns. This feature will replace 100-year-old boilers and use more than 30,000 dry tons of woody biomass annually.

The design and system were praised as an innovative way to make efficient use of wood byproducts from Stoltze logging operations.

"If we could replicate this model in other places, we certainly would," said Deputy U.S. Forest Service Chief Jim Hubbard, who echoed the importance of retaining wood processing facilities.

Richard Opper, director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, was quoted in the local Daily Interlake newspaper as saying, "It's an example of this company's forward-looking nature and why they've been around so long."

The plant will burn about four tons of green fuel per hour, including bark, sawdust and slash that would otherwise be burned in forests with far more pollution than the co-gen plant will produce. It will be physically dominated by two 82-foot-tall fuel storage silos and a building with a 40,000-pound boiler with a turbine generator and pollution control equipment.

To date Stoltze has received \$200,720 in Federal funds for the \$20 million project. The Recovery Act 30 percent grant will be available upon the project's completion. The project will diversify their income and help them retain more than 100 jobs at the mill, while stabilizing about 65 forest management jobs in the woods.

Stoltze estimates the new facility will create as many as 12 new jobs within a 75-mile radius of the mill, which encompasses most of Flathead, Lincoln, and Lake Counties. These counties have experienced some of the highest unemployment rates in the state; December 2011 employment rates were 10.2 to 15.5 percent. The project is expected to add \$7.5 million to the local economy in wages for suppliers and contractors over two years.



Photos courtesy of F.H. Stoltze Lumber

State & Private Forestry 2012 Biomass Program

The S&PF Biomass program posted significant successes in 2012 across both Regional areas. In the Northern Region, three different projects received grants through the Woody Biomass Utilization Program totaling more than \$600,000. Those projects were:

Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District, Orofino, Idaho \$110,000

F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company, Columbia Falls, Mont. \$250,000

Mineral Community Hospital, Superior Mont. \$190,000

At the mid-summer announcement for the grants, USDA Deputy Under Secretary Butch Blazer remarked, "The Forest Service works in more than 7,000 communities across the country to support projects that provide green jobs and boost local economies." He added that these grants continue the legacy of improving access to affordable energy for rural schools, community centers, universities and small businesses.

The Biomass Grant program helps applicants complete the necessary design work needed to secure public or private investment for construction. Examples of projects include the engineering design of a woody biomass boiler for steam at a sawmill, a non-pressurized hot water system for a hospital or school, and a biomass-power generation facility.

There are now 18 projects operating in the Northern Region, including 14 in Montana, 2 in North Idaho, and 2 in North Dakota. In 2012, two pellet projects were started at Clark Fork Valley Hospital in Plains, Montana, and Mineral County Hospital in Superior, Montana.

Region 1 Forest Health Protection

Insect and Disease Monitoring

Forest Health Protection performed multiple surveys by air and on the ground for insect and disease damage in R1 in 2012. Aerial surveys were performed over 30+ million acres. Numerous ground surveys looked at local insect/pathogen populations primarily to support resource managers in their efforts to maintain and improve forest health. This included cooperative surveys with states for insects such as balsam wooly adelgid, gypsy moth and emerald ash borer. A cooperative survey with National Forests, NPS and other federal agencies continued for the eighth year to assess whitebark pine health in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Prevention/Suppression/Restoration Funding

FHP provided \$2 million of direct support to federal and cooperative partners in 2012 to prevent or suppress insects and diseases and restore lands impacted by them. These projects focused on bark beetles, primarily mountain pine beetle in developed sites, and white pine blister rust in improved western white pine plantations. An estimated 9,000 acres were treated with these funds. About \$25,000 of these funds was used in CFLR project area.

Functional Assistance

FHP worked with state partners to deliver insect and disease and hazard tree recognition and management training to numerous federal, state, tribal and private individuals across the states. To improve delivery and limit travel costs, a portion of the classroom training was done remotely. Functional assistance on insect and disease recognition and management was provided by entomologists and forest pathologists to an array of federal and tribal partners. This included site visits and reports, input to landscape assessments and environmental documents, monitoring of control projects, and special detection surveys. Staff also responded to requests from various organizations and media with information on insect and disease issues.



Above – S&PF researchers make observations in a pruned stand of white pines on the Idaho Panhandle NF.

Below – an S&PF researcher reviews the effectiveness of verbenone pheromone treatments in a stand of lodgepole pines on the Red Ives Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle NF. Untreated trees can be seen the background, and are distinguished by their red coloring.



Special Projects

FHP collaborated with Forest Service R&D, universities, and contractors on a variety of special projects and publications to improve our knowledge base on insect and disease impacts and management. This included: impacts of mountain pine beetle on fuels and fire behavior; use of sanitation harvesting and verbenone to deter MPB attacks; improving our knowledge of climatic controls and climate change on bark beetle activity; western white pine management guide; effects of pruning and thinning on blister rust control in western white pine; development of a high-elevation five-needle pine database for western US and Canada; walnut twig beetle detection and monitoring; balsam wooly adelgid modeling; and effects of various silvicultural treatments on mountain pine beetle activity. FHP also coordinated the national whitebark pine restoration program, collaborating with numerous partners and making significant contributions to whitebark pine management.

Volunteers plant whitebark pine seeds as part of a study comparing benefits of planting seeds to planting seedlings. Funding included monies from the State & Private Forestry.

Stewardship Facts

- In Region 1 there are currently 30 open stewardship contracts with timber removal:
 - 6 awarded in FY2012; 8 in FY2011; 8 in FY2010; 3 in FY2009; and 5 in FY2008;
 - 26 are timber contracts (IRTC) and 4 are service contracts with timber removal (IRSC);
 - 7,698 acres of harvest with a total value of \$13,892,562.
- Stewardship contracts make up on average about 8% of all the timber removal contracts implemented and account for 30% of the volume removed:
 - This trend appears to be constant under normal market conditions.
- Retained receipts- 15 proposals were submitted in FY2012 to spend \$1,051,353 in retained receipts using stewardship service contracts and stewardship agreements:
 - 1 from the Bitterroot; 2 from the IPNF; 5 from the Flathead NF; 7 from the Nez Perce / Clearwater NF;
 - To date \$847, 322.81 in retained receipts has been obligated with a remaining balance in the Region of \$794,768.36;
 - Land management goals accomplished (proposed).
- Culvert and bridge removal/replacement.
- Road decommissioning.
- Fuel reduction –hand, mechanized, mulching and piling.
- Trail obliteration.
- Weed management.

Nez Perce Trail Marks 135th Anniversary

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) marked the 135th anniversary of the 1877 war and flight. The Trail staff, in conjunction with a number of partners, hosted a website providing information about events happening this past year to commemorate the events of 1877. Trail visitors were encouraged to learn more about the culture of the Nez Perce (Niimípuu) people and significant events connected to the Trail and its history. The NPNHT website provided visitors with details on more than 30 historical, interpretive and cultural activities associated with the Trail story to enhance their experience.

A speaker series was sponsored along the 1,170 mile length of the NPNHT with presentations given in locations from Lapwai, ID, to Billings, Lolo, Missoula and Havre, MT. Several hundred people enjoyed presentations by historical re-enactors, Nez Perce Trail historians, and members of the Nez Perce tribe with ancestral connections to the 1877 war and flight.

For visitors unable to physically visit the NPNHT, they now have the option to travel the entire length of the NPNHT using Google Maps and Google Earth.

“The uses for this tool are endless and we are extremely excited to be able to share these applications with visitor and educators,” said NPNHT Administrator Sandi McFarland. “We are already exploring the possibility of educational curriculum using this software to more fully engage youth.”

Completion of the virtual tour marks the first significant use of the full range of Google web tools to showcase, promote, educate, and enhance the public's awareness and use of one of our nation's historic trails. The tour can be accessed from the Foundation's website or the NPNHT website.

To learn more about the NPNHT, visit www.fs.usda.gov/npnht/ or follow us on Twitter @npnht.



public use, stabilize and protect vulnerable archaeological sites, locate and monitor cultural resources in Wilderness, conduct scientific and historical investigations, and support educational projects.

The projects have spanned a broad range. Last year, 17 projects were funded from archaeological investigations of a World War II-era B-17 crash site, studying shelter caves used by American Indians, restoration of historic structures, and artifact curation as well as tracing the trails and camps of Lt. Col. Custer's 7th Cavalry dating back to the 1870s.

The Northern Region received the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Chairman's Award today for Achievement in Historic Preservation for the region's Heritage Stewardship Enhancement program. The program is designed to foster the protection, stewardship, and public use of cultural resources across the Northern Region of the Forest Service. Since 2004, the Northern Region has provided \$1.9 million to more than 120 projects to renovate historic buildings for

Employment in the Northern Region

The Northern Region is working diligently to attract top-quality resource and program specialists to the 13 forests and grasslands across northern Idaho, Montana and North Dakota. We are making the most out of the wide range of hiring authorities and preferences available to us to make sure we bring the brightest and best onboard. The US Forest Service is on the front lines of some of today's critical issues that include climate change, sustainable energy, and the management of most of our nation's water supplies in freshwater lakes and rivers. You can visit our US Forest Service employment page to find out about specific positions, job qualifications, and how to apply.

For more information on positions and to find our job vacancies go to: <https://www.usajobs.gov/>

For more information on Veteran information at OPM go to: <http://www.fedshirevets.gov/>

For more information on people with disabilities go to: <http://www.opm.gov/disability/PeopleWithDisabilities.asp>

You will find specific information on using the USAJobs website at their link [USAJOBS How-To's](#)

Cultural Transformation



Region 1 Civil Rights Director Bob Shinn (center) presents mementos to Candace Hubbard (left) and Wayne Hubbard (right) during the Hubbards' visit to the Region in February 2012. Hubbard gave a presentation to employees on the Buffalo Soldiers and their actions in part of the Region for Black History Month.

Civil Rights

During the course of 2012, the Civil Rights program made a major leap forward in reaching more diverse audiences by partnering with the host and producer of Urban American Outdoor Television, Wayne Hubbard.

Mr. Hubbard is both an avid outdoorsman and Black history enthusiast who comes to the Region with two purposes in mind: to give a presentation on the Buffalo soldiers of the US military to Northern Region staff; and to get a feel for western Montana in preparation for a Fall return visit to scout locations for his nationally-acclaimed outdoor program.

Urban American Outdoor Television is the only outdoor television show currently airing that targets a multicultural audience. It is aired throughout the United States and Europe reaching some 25 million viewers nationally and 500 million viewers internationally.

In June, Regional Forester Faye Krueger was a guest speaker at one of UAOTV's fishing derbies to educate and inform the children and their parents of opportunities in the Forest Service. This event attracted more than 330 youth from Kansas City and surrounding communities. Krueger was on hand, along with Hubbard, to present information to this group with many Forest Service opportunities in employment and recreation.

Region 1 has since contracted with UAOTV to film three installments of the show here in various parts of the region. The concept behind these shows is to familiarize viewers with our Region, especially highlighting Northern Region employment and recreational opportunities. The value of this endeavor could have immeasurable positive impact on Region 1's cultural diversity efforts. This partnership has allowed our Region to reach out to urban youth and students with employment options in the Forest Service and recreation opportunities. UAOTV also allows the Region to inform adults who may have an interest in Forest Service careers but are not aware of the job opportunities our agency provides.

Beginning in 2013, the Region will implement a Diversity and Inclusion Outreach team to help broaden the candidate pools for vacancies across our 13 forests and grasslands. This seven-member panel is directed to seek a variety of opportunities and means to showcase the advantages and benefits of the Forest Service as a career option to a wider range of minority candidates through college and university partners, Tribal governments and education programs, current national partner conferences and conventions, and different hiring authorities available to the agency for expanding the diversity of the agency.

Heroism and Emergency Response:

Incident at Bear Creek Field Camp



On May 16, during the Bear Creek Field Camp, a fifth-grade boy suffered an allergic reaction after eating a macadamia nut cookie at lunch. He had difficulty breathing and his teacher asked for help and if anyone had an epinephrine autoinjector. Jeff Barnes and Mark Genito provided one and discussed how to handle the situation.

Jeff, a former EMT, suggested calling for an ambulance to get the child to the Ennis Hospital. Mark, who recently completed EMT training, strongly agreed. Mark transported the child and teacher toward the Ennis Hospital and met the ambulance on the way. Jeff made sure that Mark had Madison County on his radio and could speak directly with the ambulance to facilitate the transfer. They had the child heading to the hospital and admitted to the Ennis ER in less than 30 minutes from the start of the incident.

The child recovered in a few days and Jeff and Mark are responsible for such a positive outcome to this incident. They were professional, calm, and fast in making decisions, and above all made the right decisions. Their actions likely saved the child's life.

Flathead National Forest Recognized for Safety Achievements

The Flathead National Forest received a regional safety award for empowering employees to incorporate safety into all aspects of their lives.

Forest employees from all levels and functional areas are personally involved in the safety program and are taking responsibility for their safety and the safety of their co-workers. Safety leadership on the Flathead encompasses individuals at all levels in the organization, from brand-new seasonal employees to the Forest Supervisor.

"I want to personally thank all of our employees for embracing this learning culture that will help us move forward," said Forest Supervisor Chip Weber. "Everyone has shown great diligence in their careful approach to assessing risks and mitigating them in their work."

The forest hosted a hands-on Employee Safety and Wellness Day to highlight the importance of safety and helping each other incorporate safety into his or her daily activities. To encourage a learning culture, employees direct the incident analyses investigations for all personal injuries and motor vehicle accidents. The affected employee, supervisor, union, safety and line officers all participate in the process, and the Forest Supervisor reviews and approves all analyses and root cause determinations.

Lessons learned are developed and shared with all employees to help everyone work and live safer. The Flathead National Forest has moved safety forward in a variety of ways designed to empower employees to consider their risk, mitigate safety hazards, and incorporate safety into all aspects of their lives. The forest is well on its way to encouraging a learning culture where safety is a core value shared by all.

Public Participates in Projects to Protect Homes from Wildfires

Two wildland urban interface projects on the Bitterroot National Forest are improving forest resiliency and protecting homes from the threat of wildfire. Early public involvement and support helped ensure both projects made it through the agency's planning and appeals process without being challenged.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act partly funded the Trapper Bunkhouse stewardship project to treat 5,600 acres.

Adjacent to the Trapper Bunkhouse project is the Lower West Fork project purchased in 2011 by Pyramid Mountain Lumber in Seeley Lake. This sale is a good indication of the slightly improving timber market in the Bitterroot Valley. The project treated more than 4,100 acres of mostly beetle infested ponderosa pine stands.

Both projects will boost the local economy and create jobs by providing more than 16.5 million board feet of timber (3,200 truckloads) to Montana sawmills.

Meeting America's Needs: Flathead NF's Timber Management Group



Crewmembers with a timber contractor on a logging site on the Flathead NF.

The timber industry represents a significant component of the economy in northwest Montana and is an essential partner in achieving Forest Service land management objectives such as fuels reduction, wildlife habitat management, and ecosystem restoration.

However, this industry has been significantly impacted and stressed by the ongoing economic recession and subsequent decrease in lumber markets. The availability of federal timber is critical to the long term viability of the local timber industry.

The Forest's Timber Management Group has responded to this need by continuing to offer timber and stewardship sales with stumpage rates appropriately appraised for the current market. Additionally, the group's commitment to using stewardship contracting has resulted in the reinvestment of much of the generated timber value into land management projects across the Flathead National Forest.

Employees of the Flathead National Forest Timber Management Group include: Rob Carlin, Resources/Planning Staff; Keith Konen, Timber Program Manager; Melissa Jenkins, Forest Silviculturist; Dave Clay, Contracting Officer; Susan Roark, Resource Assistant; Linda McDevitt, Resource Assistant; Naomi Rhodes, Timber Sale Administrator; Cory Anderson, Forester; Jim Vander Schaff, Forestry Technician; Keigh Smiley, Forestry Technician; Paul Johnson, Forestry Technician; Heidi Trechsel, Silviculturist; Amanda Smiley, Forester; Geoff Vevera, Timber Sale Administrator; Paul Donnellon, Forester; Daren Nichols, Forestry Technician; John Bassman, Silviculturist/Timber Operations; Tony Willits, Timber Sale Administrator; Greg Karow, Forester; Andy Reed, Forester; and Chris Roy, Forestry Technician.



Creating a Safety Culture: Todd Wilson

One of the most dangerous jobs in the Forest Service is felling trees. For the past seven years, Todd Wilson has served as the regional chainsaw technical expert in addition to his position of Assistant Fire Management Officer (Operations) at the Cabinet Ranger District on the Kootenai National Forest.

In this collateral duty role, Todd has organized the annual regional chainsaw conference to help share ideas, track trends, and bring to light safety concerns at a regional level. Nationally, Todd is involved with a group tasked with writing chainsaw policy and proposing updates for the chainsaw and hazard tree training. This group is comprised of members from several federal agencies.

Todd has been a leader in safety for saw operations throughout the region and the Forest Service by helping to change the culture of felling operations toward a safe mind set. Each year, Todd travels to

three forests in the region in order to review the process used to train sawyers, track training, and ensure training records are being documented. This process confirms that standards of training are being upheld across the region.

Excellence in Science & Technology: Libby Superfund Wildfire Community Protection

The Environmental Protection Agency has issued a Public Health Emergency determination for the Libby Superfund area and dedicated more than \$300 million on cleanup to protect the Kootenai Valley.

Due to the documented presence of asbestos in duff and tree bark on forested lands, there is a risk to firefighters and public safety during wildfires. Because of concerns for health of the community and wildland firefighters, efforts are ongoing to increase the initial attack success rate in the Libby Superfund area to minimize potential threats of exposure.

Kootenai National Forest's Nikia Hernandez and Kent Johnson have dedicated time, energy and provided leadership to develop innovative approaches for safe and effective wildfire responses in the Libby Superfund area. In cooperation with state and federal agencies, they have helped develop plans, provided training and equipment for volunteers, and developed suppression response protocol and mitigation measures for response efforts. With unprecedented threats facing firefighters and the community, Nikia and Kent have shown excellent leadership and support for all partners and agencies involved in the area.



Regional Awards



Promoting Recreation: Beaverhead-Deerlodge Cabin Restoration Crew

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest's Cabin Restoration Crew has completed restoration on 18 of the rental cabins on the forest earning them the Regional Forester's Honor Award for Promoting Recreation. Mark Libby, civil engineer for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, accepted the Regional Forester's Honor Award for the accomplishments of this exceptional group.

Crew members provide journey-level masonry, carpentry and log construction skills, and help in solving problems associated with maintaining century-old facilities. Their work has resulted in promoting year-round outdoor recreation opportunities in the cabin rental program and has significantly improved historical stewardship of these important resources.

Their exemplary achievement has been accomplished in a safe, efficient and, economical manner. The group works under challenging conditions such as working in remote locations where typical construction services, like electricity, do not exist.

Rental cabins are a focal point of the forest's recreation program. Through their work, they have improved the quality and availability of these tremendous public recreation opportunities.

An example of their skills can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vBV4n4yAS0>

Partnerships and Collaboration: Kootenai NF's Forest Restoration Partnership

Tracy McIntyre, manager of Eureka Rural Development Partners (ERDP), and Harmony Burow, fuels specialist on Kootenai National Forest's Rexford Ranger District, received the Sustaining Forests and Grasslands Award for the Forest Restoration Partnership project.

In 2009, the Kootenai National Forest entered into an agreement with ERDP, a local non-profit economic development organization, to employ 5-14 local personnel during the economic downturn. Over the last three years, the crew that was hired has reduced stand densities, hand-piled residual slash, cleared hiking and cross-country ski trails, and cleared roads needed for recreational users as well as fire suppression forces. The crews thinned and piled a total of 580 acres and brushed 31 miles of roads and trails.

McIntyre spearheaded the agreement process working through the maze of completing an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act agreement, obtaining matching funds, hiring and supervising the crew, and coordinating with the Forest Service. Burow ensured the agreements were properly completed, identified the projects, reviewed the environmental documents, and coordinated with the district specialist for treatment prescriptions.



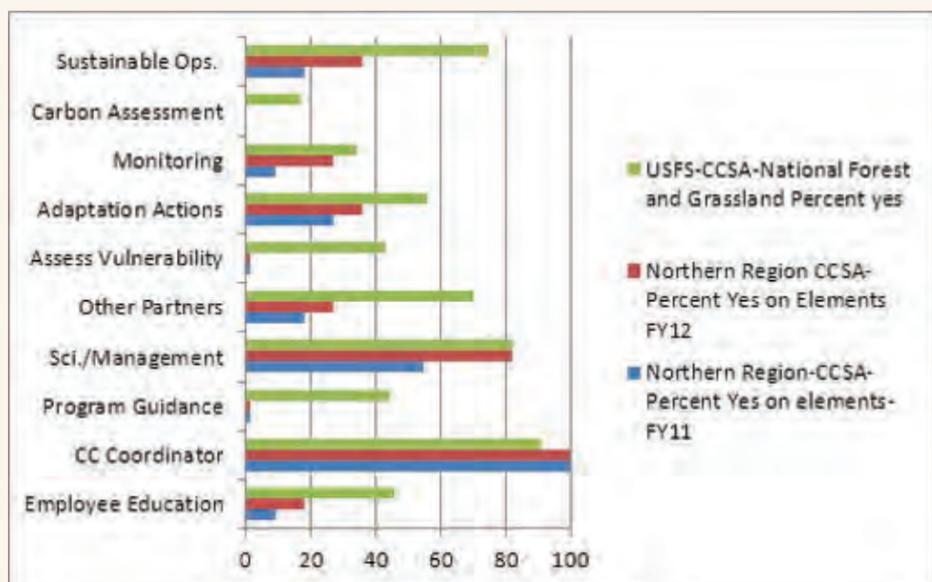
Climate Change

During 2012, the Northern Region began to build its framework and focus toward climate change impacts, mitigations and actions moving into 2013 and beyond. One of the cornerstones of the Region's climate change attitude was in observations and monitoring. Across the Region, Forest Service employees noted trends across the forests and grasslands that include:

- severely departed fire regimes from traditional norms; unprecedented wildfire;
- white bark pine die off;
- ancient snow fields melting and exposing archaeological artifacts;
- mass die-off from bark beetle including Mountain Pine Beetle, Spruce Budworm and Gypsy Moth attacks in the Regions' forests.

Districts, forests and grasslands also made numerous additional observations with invasive weeds species that have spread across the region resulting in millions of dollars in mitigation and economic loss. We have increased mortality in single species and mixed species. We are also seeing changes in stream flow and higher water temperatures. Forests have observed increased summer heat and more rapid run-off from the winter snowpack which has lost its traditional time-released storage capacity. The forests also feel climate change effects from increasing social pressure for forest restoration with job emphasis; and the lingering effects of differing national and international science as to whether or not climate change is real and what impacts human behaviors have on changing the trends.

These trends have also translated into a concerted effort to improve the Region's posture with respect to the Forest Service's Climate Change Performance Scorecard. Across the Region we are seeing an upward trend in positive responses and proactive actions down to the District levels in the 10 Scorecard elements. The increases range from a few percentage points to some elements that almost doubled in positive responses over 2011, according to the Climate Change Scorecard diagram.



As an adjunct to our climate change efforts, the Forest Service released the 2012 Planning Rule in early 2012, with one R1 forest selected as an 'early adopter' to implement this proactive collaborative approach to forest plan revisions and development. Climate change and the scorecard elements are an integral part of the required natural resource considerations that are built into the new Planning Rule.

That Forest, the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF has developed a highly-engaging collaborative approach to defining their next Plan, involving communities, user groups and other special interest groups using a wide-ranging set of communication technologies and platforms, including webcasts, video-conferencing and social media to bring ideas to the table.

In 2013 another Forest will join the effort, as the Flathead NF used time in 2012 to work with the Planning team on the Nez Perce-Clearwater to lay out a framework to use in engaging publics, communities and groups for their revision effort.

Like the all-lands approach we take to landscape-scale conservation in the Region, we have a strong and growing list of partners in addressing climate change across the region. On the eastern side we have the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, GYCC, and the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative working to understand and actively monitor and work toward adaptation of the eastside landscapes which include Yellowstone National Park.

One notable accomplishment during 2012 was the completion of an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) at multiple locations across the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Region. The U.S. Forest Service contracted with Honeywell International to install energy conservation measures at



Climate Change Research in the Beartooth Mountains

Dr. Tom Lyman and Dr. Lucas Ward of Rocky Mountain College confer while Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation volunteer Matt DeWitt looks on as they prepare to send sensitive GPS equipment down the face of the Rearguard Glacier high in the Beartooth Mountains. Data collected goes to Dan Siefert of the USFS-Custer NF, Beartooth Ranger District and will accurately assess the depth of ice remaining in the glacier to be used as baseline data for any changes in ice mass due to climate change.

locations in Montana and Idaho that will reduce energy consumption at the sites by approximately 16 percent annually.

The ESPCs are designed to help the federal government conserve energy and water and increase the use of clean renewable energy—all without adding to the national budget deficit. An ESPC is a partnership between a federal agency and an energy service company (ESCO). The ESCO conducts a comprehensive energy audit for the federal facility and identifies improvements to save energy. In consultation with the federal agency, the ESCO designs and constructs a project that meets the agency's needs and arranges the necessary financing. The ESCO guarantees that the improvements will generate energy cost savings sufficient to pay for the project over the term of the contract. After the contract ends, all additional cost savings accrue to the government agency.

The project leveraged almost \$2.5 million in private funding to install energy efficient and renewable technologies, and supported the equivalent of 27 jobs for a year. The resulting energy savings will save the U.S. Forest Service over \$267,000 in energy costs in the first year and generate enough energy to power approximately 147 homes annually.

The project included: the installation of 13,200 lights with 300 sensors; 115 programmable thermostats; 13 heat pumps; 67 greenhouse heaters; attic insulation and infiltration reduction in 110 buildings; and low-flow showerheads and aerators for 95 locations. It also features a new 4.9-kw solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the White Sulphur Springs Ranger Station in White Sulphur Springs, Montana. The PV array consists of 20 flat-plate PV panels mounted in a fixed position. The high-efficiency panels will convert the sun's energy into direct-current (DC) power, which will be converted to alternating current (AC) power through an inverter. The AC power will be fed into the facility's electrical system.

These partnerships and accomplishments set the Region up for a more progressive year in terms of climate change actions and planning, and opportunities to engage more groups, communities and individuals in caring for the land and serving people in 2013 and beyond.



“Bridging the Divide” Reaches out to Tribal Youths

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest partnered with the Bureau of Land Management to host a field camp for tribal youth to learn about Native American culture and natural resources in an outdoor classroom setting.

Specialists from the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management use a combination of modern and traditional learning skills to teach a curriculum that emphasizes scientific exploration with cultural heritage.

Students learned about the dynamic nature of hydrologic systems, plant composition that defines healthy riparian areas and the critical elements of properly functioning aquatic habitats. Tribal elders taught students the traditional uses of various riparian plant species and how to use traditional weirs, fish traps and fishing spears to harvest native fish. Students made cordage from dog bane and then constructed fish traps using willow and the cordage.

The Forest worked closely with American Indian tribes and tribal high schools to develop the program. Students spend three weeks in the classroom, followed by a one week long field camp, which is held at the Birch Creek Center outside of Dillon, Montana.

Each year the program focusses on a different ecological theme. In 2012, the theme of “Beaver on the Trail” focused on the beaver’s role in riparian systems and its impacts on fisheries.



Youth and Conservation

Natural Resource Camp Introduces Tribal Youth to Conservation

For nearly three decades, national forests in the Northern Region join forces annually with several Indian tribes across the region to host an inter-tribal youth natural resources camp. The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests hosted the week-long camp in 2012 at the scenic Kooskia national Fish Hatchery co-managed by the Nez Perce tribe and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Nearly 40 junior and senior High students from area reservations participated in the camp to learn about forestry, conservation and fire management. The Nez Perce tribe’s camp crew along with Forest Service employees built a mock fire camp for the campers and chaperones.

While the rolling lawns and mild low-elevation climate made the hatchery facility a great spot to camp, it was specifically selected for its centralized proximity to several projects that are within the Forests’ Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) area. The Nez Perce Tribe is a significant partner in the success of CFLRP and dozens of other projects on National Forest System lands in their ceded territories. Additionally, the hatchery now occupies a site on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, managed by the Forest Service, and sits adjacent to a Nez Perce National Historical Park site.

This wonderfully central location, coupled with unique land management partnerships, gave campers exciting opportunities to learn not only from Forest Service professionals, but also those from National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Nez Perce Tribe. Nez Perce elders and elders along with Coeur d’Alene tribal members also assisted in making crucial cultural connections between the youth and the resources.

As an added bonus, using a recently-secured grant, the Coeur d’Alene Tribe provided teachers to assist with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum in an “outdoor classroom” setting.

The camp rotates among the Colville, Idaho Panhandle, Nez Perce – Clearwater and Payette National Forests. Participating neighboring tribes include the Nez Perce, Coeur d’Alene, Kalispell, Spokane and Kootenai Tribes.

Volunteer, Youth and Service Program, and Conservation Education Program

In 2012, 3,468 individuals participated in the Northern Region’s Volunteer, Youth and Service Program, providing 223,417 hours of service, at a value of \$4,868,250. This is an increase over 2011, where 2,975 people participated in volunteer, youth and service programs, providing 214,344 hours of service, at a value of \$4,578,149. Volunteers in 2012 worked on a wide range of projects, including recreation, wilderness, trails, heritage, range, weeds, inventory and monitoring, fisheries, forestry, wildlife, fire, minerals/geology, facilities, and Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration.

Other highlights of 2012 included expansion of the Youth Conservation Corps program, initiation of a new tribal conservation crew program, new grant funding supporting an America’s Great Outdoors/21st Century Conservation Corps partnership, and a new volunteer forest monitoring program for veterans undergoing rehabilitation for post-traumatic stress syndrome.

More than 61,500 children, teenagers and adults directly participated in the Northern Region’s Conservation Education Program in 2012. Accomplishments include:

- Regional launch of the new Forest Service Junior Snow Ranger program
- Continued partnership with the Woods Project to increase conservation education opportunities for Hispanic youth.
- Expanding *A Forest For Every Classroom* program for the 4th consecutive year
- National and regional presentations of *A Secret Garden* in partnership with the Missoula Children’s Theatre
- National funding of three *More Kids in the Woods* projects:
 - Feathered Friends (backyard/school yard habitats)
 - Kids in the Watershed
 - Bridging the Divide tribal youth culture camp.

Other conservation education accomplishments included youth monitoring programs, numerous Celebrating Wildflower events including a Camas Festival, Migratory Bird Day celebrations, classes on avalanche safety and bear safety, Citizen Science programs, Leave No Trace and Project Learning Tree trainings, creation of pollinator gardens, snowshoe hikes, moon walks, and fire prevention activities.

Conservation Education Programs at the Summit Nature Center



The Forest Service Junior Snow Ranger program is the only program of its kind in the Region to offer conservation education programs to youth at the Summit Nature Center on the Whitefish Mountain Ski Resort. The Summit Nature Center provides hands-on learning experiences that visitors of all ages can enjoy with family and friends. Topics range from subalpine environment, natural resources, and grizzly bears to understanding the role that fire plays in nature.

Thanks to a 20-year partnership between the Flathead National Forest and Winter Sports, Inc., the Summit Nature Center is staffed by volunteers during winter holidays and weekends (January-mid March). Center staff assisted with school snowshoe programs during the week, and provided extra staffing when needed. Volunteers included retirees, college students, teachers and Forest Service employees.

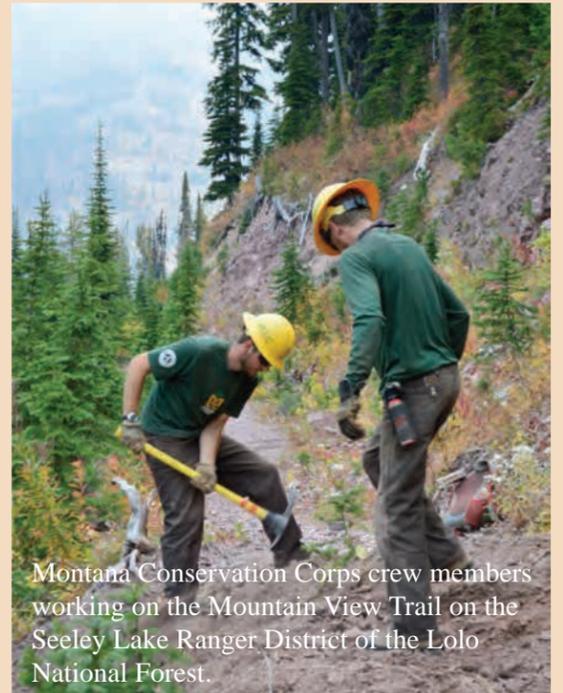
The launch of the new Forest Service Junior Snow Ranger Program was a special event that involved a 2nd grade class from the Elrod School located in Kalispell. A total of 20 students completed an activity book, received a patch, a pin and congratulations from a Forest Service Snow Ranger and the resort Ski Patrol.

Other conservation education programs offered during the winter include “Animals in Winter” and “Winter Safety & Snow Science” for grades K-4 and 5-8. Altogether there have been 30 classes, 619 student participants, and 11 different schools within these two programs. Forest Service staffing for these programs involved Christiane Hinterman, Sarah Polhamus, Teresa Wenum and two volunteer college students.

During the summer, the center had over 16,500 visitors which averaged 206 people per day. Several Ranger Naturalists provided programs for senior-aged tour groups, youth, families and even more formal programs for visiting Road Scholars groups.

For 2012, the center has had approximately 18 volunteers and 165 accomplishment hours revolving around conservation education and public contact and information distribution.

Proposal Receives Grant Program Funds



Montana Conservation Corps crew members working on the Mountain View Trail on the Seeley Lake Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest.

This crew was funded as part of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s competitive grant program *America’s Great Outdoors: Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists*. MCC’s grant proposal, developed in partnership with the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative, the University of Montana – College of Forestry and Conservation, Watershed Education Network, and the World Wildlife Fund, was one of 17 proposals selected nationwide (out of 300 applicants) for expanding or creating new hands-on conservation jobs programs for young people interested in exploring or pursuing conservation careers. The competitive grant initiative was supported with funds from the BLM and Forest Service and money raised by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation from private partnerships.

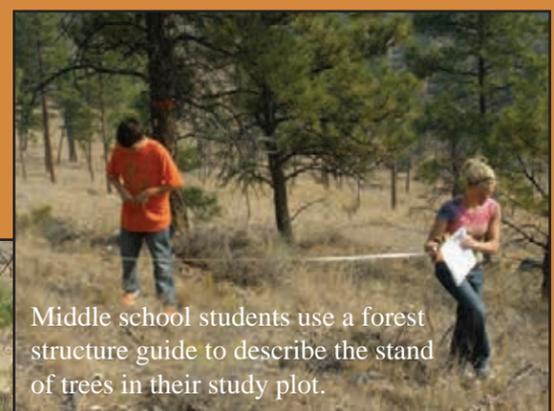
Mt. Helena Middle School Field Day Helena National Forest



Learning about the local landscape by inventorying plots on Mt. Helena.



Students determine tree cover classification on their study plot using a local plant guide.



Middle school students use a forest structure guide to describe the stand of trees in their study plot.

Youth and Conservation



Idaho Youth Conservation Corps Program

The Forest Service and the Idaho Department of Labor (IDL) continued a four year partnership to facilitate four Idaho Youth Conservation Corps crews (IYCC) on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The IYCC program provided summer employment opportunities to 16 youth residing within or adjacent to the boundaries of the Forests.

Four youth crews were hired for an eight week period. Two crews worked the forested areas outside of Pierce, Weippe and Orofino, Idaho. The other two crews worked out of Kamiah, Kooskia and Lowell.

The Forest Service Youth Conservation Corp Program emphasizes “work, earn and learn” by doing conservation and public service projects on the Forests. Participants developed an appreciation and understanding of the Forest Service Mission: “Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of current and future generations.” Environmental education was also incorporated into the work projects to increase awareness of local and national conservation issues.

This year’s projects included: weed eradication; fencing a pollinator garden; assisting the Nez Perce Tribal Trail crew with riparian fence building; dismantling 7,392 feet of barbed wire

fence; cleaning out six cattle guards; clearing three miles of Nimiipuu Trail #40; doing 14 miles of trail maintenance on the Lewis and Clark Trail; brush clearing, debris removal, and replacing fire rings at Lolo Creek Campground; construction of nine bulletin boards for public information; repairing vandalism damage; campground maintenance; cleaning up dispersed campsites; and white pine pruning.

Idaho Youth Conservation Corps crews also did conservation work in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) Area.

Environmental education was incorporated throughout the summer. Specialists taught about forest restoration and ecosystem health in relationship to their specific projects. Structured environmental education was also scheduled throughout the summer, providing basic information about natural resources to increase environmental awareness and to nurture a love for the natural world. Topics included learning what makes a healthy stream; visiting Forest Service Fire Lookouts and learning about the job of being a lookout; tree identification and measurements; wildlife biology and bird identification; the history of the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station; fire ecology in the Northern Rockies; and the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark.



Crewmembers measure and cut logs for parking stops at a trailhead on the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF.



YCC crew members stain picnic tables at Clearwater Gulch Picnic Area.

During the IYCC program, the youth participants brainstormed “What Makes a Good Crew Member” and “What Makes a Good Crew Leader.” Listed below are these qualities:

A Good Crew Member:

- Gets along with everyone
- Caring and helpful
- Dependable
- Hardworking
- Dedicated
- Punctual
- Trustworthy
- Good hygiene
- Respects everyone’s differences
- Responsible for own actions
- Puts their heart into the job
- Works to the best of their ability
- Challenges themselves
- Good Communicator
- Safe worker
- Independent
- Takes pride in doing a good job
- Shares ideas
- Comes to work prepared with a good attitude, PPE, rested and ready

A Good Crew Leader:

- Problem solver
- Has skills to teach
- Good communicator
- Gives clear direction
- Lines out work equally
- Fun/good sense of humor
- Works alongside crew members
- Sets a good example/role model
- Works well with others
- Sensitive to different personality types
- All the above mentioned for a good crew member

At season’s end, Forest Supervisor Rick Brazell personally thanked the IYCC participants for their hard work, impressive accomplishments, and contributions to the Forest Service Mission. He encouraged them all to continue to be good stewards of our public lands!

Some of the members of the youth Conservation Corps program on the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF.



Fun Run Connects Families to Nature



The Ninemile Ranger District on the Lolo National Forest teamed up with the Ninemile Community Center, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Montana Natural History Center, and Frenchtown Rural Fire District to organize a family fun run.

Event organizers initiated the fun run two years ago for families to experience their national forests and to offer children a way to learn about wildlife and the outdoors.

“In 2011 we had a great event with more than 100 participants of all ages,” said Laura Johnson, Ninemile District Resources Assistant. “We had everything from kids sprinting to families walking with strollers experiencing nature and enjoying the outdoors.”

Post-run events included a mule packing demonstration, outdoor educational activities, fire engines, and a visit from Smokey Bear.

The fun run is a part of the national Children’s Forest Initiative that focuses on creating connections between kids and national forests, expanding conservation education, and encouraging healthy lifestyles through outdoor recreation.



National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day Volunteers
at Dinner Station Campground,
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Nature Walk Program Provides Outdoor Adventures for Young Enthusiastic Learners

Employees with the Lolo National Forest teamed up with the Missoula County Weed District to support a youth educational program called Nature Walk. Nature Walk involves teaching third-grade students about the natural world in their own backyard. Nearly 400 Missoula-area students participated in field trips to Maclay Flat and Rattlesnake National Recreation Area in June.

Lolo National Forest Wildlife Interpreter Sue Reel said the annual event is a unique

opportunity to connect children with the natural outdoor world where they live.

“Presenters and teachers have told us how they look forward each spring to these field trips,” Reel said. “It’s a wonderful opportunity to get kids outside to provide both natural history and science education.

The educational topics at the stations include bird-watching, insects, archeology, plant identification, aquatic insect identification and fire ecology.



Young volunteers from Beaverhead County High School Key Club paint picnic tables.



St. Louis Americorps volunteers remove old posts and help clean-up campground.



Volunteers Reach New Heights to Construct New Trail

Volunteers with the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation spent 5 days at an elevation of 10,000 feet on the Red Lodge Creek Plateau, east of Red Lodge, building a new section of trail in the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness for the Beartooth Ranger District of the Custer NF. Volunteers from ages 15-52 completed 0.7 of a mile of new trail over the rocky tundra.

KD Swan Exhibit at the Missoula International Airport



Throughout 2012, the magnificent and captivating images from US Forest Service photographer Kenneth Dupee Swan were prominently displayed in the departure area of the Missoula International Airport. Annually more than 400,000 passengers travel through the departure gates at the airport,

and the exhibit has given each of them some insight into the early days of the Forest Service and the beauty of the lands we managed.

Swann began his career with the agency as forest assistant after receiving his Master’s degree in Forestry at Harvard University. Over the course of his 37-year career he held a variety of positions, including planting trees, surveying homestead sites and cruising timber for harvesting in the Jefferson National Forest (now Lewis and Clark), Sioux National Forest (now Custer), and Clearwater National Forest; and at the Regional Office as a topographer and draftsman, among many other positions.

In the 1920s he was reassigned to the agency’s new Information and Education Branch because of his exceptional photography, and desire to share the outdoors with the public. Swan’s photos captured the face of America’s western public lands, prominently revealing its beauty and rugged allure. He routinely toured the Region giving lectures on forest conservation, the value of the natural resources and the need for setting these special places aside for the good of the nation.

Swan retired from the agency in 1947, but his legacy of work on behalf of these public lands is enduring. There is a display of his work at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC, as well as in other exhibits across the West.

There is more information about the airport exhibit where you can find other links to his work and a brief documentary on his life and impact to the Forest Service and the public’s concept of the need for natural resources conservation.

http://www.flymissoula.com/Terminal_Information/Retrospective_of_KD_Swan

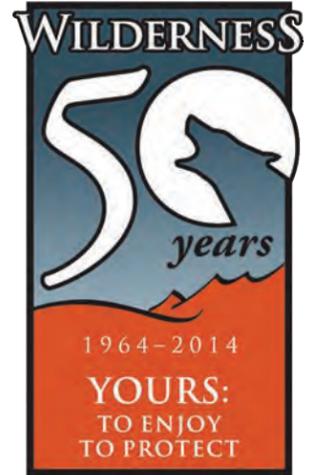
In today’s techno-heavy society, more and more Americans are experiencing life through apps – applications they can download onto their smart phones to make their lives easier, faster, more convenient, save time, stay connected with family and friends – a whole host of apps. In Region 1, however, there is something we have that simply cannot be experienced any other way except to come here and take it in personally, physically, spiritually and solemnly – our wilderness areas. For 2013, the Region is promoting our Wilderness areas and stewardship with this thought in mind – **“There’s No App for This!”**

The notoriety of the Chief’s Award to the Selway-Bitterroot Foundation highlights the true nature and essence of Wilderness in America. In 2014 the country will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Region 1 is proud to support and promote the merits and objectives of the Act and the Wilderness we manage.

During 2013 we invite you, the public, our partners, volunteers and neighbors, to capture your personal Wilderness experiences in photos and short video files. We want to provide as much of the Wilderness experience as is possible through your photos and short videos on our Regional Flickr account <http://www.flickr.com/people/fsnorthernregion/>, in preparation for the 50th anniversary celebrations that will take place nationwide.

Unlike so many other experiences that can be digitized and made into a virtual reality, the untrammled and solemn reality of Wilderness cannot be duplicated. Because so many Americans may not have the opportunity to visit one of our prestigious Wilderness areas to celebrate the 50th anniversary, we want you to help us capture those experiences to share with others. We know that this is no substitute for the real experience, but we also know the beauty and splendor, the solemn and personal experiences of Wilderness areas are set aside for the potential experiences of all Americans.

Region 1’s **“There’s No App for This!”** will run throughout 2013 and into the 2014 celebrations of the Wilderness Act’s 50th anniversary. As we continue to develop the mechanics of sharing your experiences, watch for news releases and announcements on our Region, Forest and Grassland websites for information on sharing your photos, videos and experiences with the world. There is no substitute for Wilderness, and **“There’s No App for This!”** will help showcase these areas through your eyes.



The Northern Region Pack Train



Gardiner Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest

Pack trains in the Northern Region provide the best means of moving tools, equipment and materials into backcountry and Wilderness areas. The Train harkens back to by-gone days when wagon trains and teams of horses moved families and goods into the West. Today, these pack trains support backcountry and Wilderness projects, including volunteers and partners in trail maintenance and other resource work. The pack trains are a very visual reminder of the agency’s commitment to Wilderness and the conservation, use and management of these valued parts of our Region.

Wilderness Program for 2012

Last year in our 2011 Year in Review we showcased our Wilderness program, having attained full compliance with the Chief’s 10-year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge, becoming the first Region in the agency to maintain all of our Wilderness acres to the full standard set by the Chief’s Challenge in 2004. Like so many of our other accomplishments, however, this one was also supported by a number of stalwart partners and volunteers.

In late 2012 the efforts of one of our Wilderness partner organizations was recognized by the Chief of the Forest Service for their contributions to two of our Wilderness areas, the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church River of No Return.

On Monday, December 10, Regional Forester Faye Krueger relayed the agency’s Bob Marshall Award for Partnership Champion in Wilderness Stewardship to Rob Mason and the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church Foundation. In 2006, the Selway-Bitterroot Foundation (SBF) was established to assist the Nez Perce, Clearwater, and Bitterroot National Forests in completing critical trail work. In 2009 Rob Mason was hired as the Executive Director. The SBF has worked with three national forests and five ranger districts to develop and implement work plans. SBF has logged more than 28,000 volunteer hours, worth over \$570,000. During field season they removed more than 40,150 pounds of trash from the Seminole Ranch Homestead. They have worked collaboratively with a wide variety of organizations such as Back Country Horsemen, National Smoke Jumpers, Sierra Club, Montana Wilderness Association, The Wilderness Society, Montana Conservation Corps, and AmeriCorps to accomplish projects. Thanks to Rob Mason, SBF has grown from a fledgling group of volunteers to a major force in wilderness stewardship in the Region.

