



USDA Forest Service

WATERSHED – FISH – WILDLIFE – AIR – RARE PLANTS ::: WFW

MONTHLY WFW STAFF NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2006

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Federal job announcements can be found at:
http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp

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Catch of the Day (critters, botanical finds, and bizarre occurrences in the news)

[Submit your information](#)
[Disclaimer & Non-Discrimination Statement](#)

National in Scope:

- **DIRECTOR'S DISCUSSION**

Farewell to Holt ::: Celebrate His FS Life Story

Holt (a.k.a. Dick Holthausen) is retiring on January 3, 2007. Holt is our National Wildlife Ecologist; leading the WO/WFW Wildlife Ecology Unit since 1991. He started his Forest Service career on April 1, 1975 (no April Fools joke!). His work has included many tough and controversial issues including Northern Spotted Owl. **Thank you, Holt, for your dedication to the natural resources for the past 31 years.**

You are invited to a retirement celebration for Holt at the Portland Hilton on March 21, 8-10 pm. This time and place was chosen to coincide with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources conference. For details on how you can add to the celebration, please contact [Christina Vojta](#).

Mandatory Training – No Fear...Ethics...Reasonable Accommodations

<http://www.aglearn.usda.gov>

No more procrastinating – time to do it. Be sure to:

- ❖ Do it in Internet Explorer (otherwise completion might not roll over)
- ❖ Complete the Certification Survey/Exam after finishing the course -- Save/Submit/Confirm buttons – do this BEFORE exiting/logging out
- ❖ Didn't see a Certification Survey? Pop-Up blocker could be the reason. Can deactivate blockers or try holding down the CNTRL key while "clicking" on the link; should allow the survey page to load.
- ❖ Still not rolling over to history? Could be JAVA. Get another cup of coffee and then install the most recent version of JAVA (software the FS uses and AgLearn depends on). Call EUSC for update.
- ❖ Check you computer settings – do this on AgLearn index page; link under "New to AgLearn".

- **GENERAL/CROSS AREAS**

Categorical Exclusion of Forest Plans

Forest Service announced the new categorical exclusion for Forest Plans on December 13, 2006.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2006/releases/12/ce-statement.shtml>

Any questions can be referred to Wayne Owen.

Submitted By: Wayne Owen, USFS, WO/WFW, National Conservation Planning Biologist

Kids In The Woods – NEW CCS Project

October 17, 2006 @ Recreation Exchange Conference

Chief Bosworth announced a new Challenge Cost Share project, *Kids in the Woods*.

This is a part of the Great Outdoors Initiative, which is sponsored by the American Recreation Coalition, National Forest Foundation, National Wildlife Federation, Disney, Coleman and numerous others. Federal partners include USFS, USFWS, NPS, BLM and others. It will expand upon existing partnership and outreach programs and encourage seeking out and developing additional partnerships and innovative programs engaging children in nature and experiential learning, thereby creating a connection with nature. This could be a great way to supplement current NatureWatch programs, and provide an excellent enhancement to many of the current and annual Environmental Education programs offered by biologists/botanists and other specialists throughout the Forest Service.

Initially funded at \$50,000, the competitive program will require a minimum 1:1 cost share partnership. Winners will be announced at a special event in the spring. Application information for this Challenge Cost Share project is being developed. This program was developed by a cross-deputy area team working to implement ideas that resulted from the Forest Service Centennial in 2005.

Contact: Kristen Nelson 202 205-1406, USFS, WO/Rec

Submitted By: Rhonda Stewart, WO/WFW, Appeals & Litigation Assistant

Received Maximum Donated Leave :: Netta Grant

Many thanks to everyone donating leave!

As of 12/15, Netta Grant, our WFW newsletter editor and IT Project Manager, is at maximum leave donation. All further Leave Donor applications are being held until FY07 PP2. Additional leave can be donated after FY07 PP2; Melvin Frazier can hold applications until that time.

If you have FY06 "Use or Lose" -- you need to go on annual leave or donate to another person in the Leave Recipient program. Check with your HCM representative. To make a donation, complete the [AD1043](#).

Contact: [Melvin Frazier](#)

Submitted By: Bonnie Wyatt, USFS, WO/WFW, Weather Program Leader

AWARD NOMINATIONS – Reminders

These awards are "National In Scope/Cross Areas" because **you** can nominate someone for one of these awards.

22ND Annual Jack Adams Award

Due Date: January 22, 2007

Contact: [David Pivorunas](#), USFS, WO/WFW Assistant TES Program Leader

[Call Letter 47 KB](#)

[Criteria and Guidelines 53 KB](#)

2007 Lloyd Swift Award

Due Date: January 22, 2007

Contact: [David Pivorunas](#), USFS, WO/WFW Assistant TES Program Leader
[Call Letter 47 KB](#)

[Criteria and Guidelines 53 KB](#)

2007 FS - BLM Conservation Awards - Partner & Project

Due Date: January 22, 2007

Contact: [David Pivorunas](#), USFS, WO/WFW Assistant TES Program Leader
[Call Letter 47 KB](#)

[Criteria and Guidelines 53 KB](#)

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SAFETY

Safety - Reporting Accidents - the Basics

WO Safety has request to provide presentations on Workman's Compensation Claims and for Basic Safety presentations. Here are the basic required procedures for reporting an accident. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rhonda Stewart or your local Safety Representative.

[Accident Report Chapter 4 PDF \(19.5 kb\)](#)

[What A Federal Employee Should Do When Injured At Work PDF \(19.1 kb\)](#)

Submitted By: Rhonda Stewart, WO/WFW, Appeals & Litigation Assistant

• NATUREWATCH

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NatureWatch Viewing Site Inventory: Update

130 sites nationally are entered into the NW Viewing Site Inventory. Notice, when on line, you see a list of sites below the map allowing users to:

- highlight (in yellow) a particular site,
- generate a map, or
- get the site description.

Please remember this is an integrated effort with recreation and wildlife/fish/botany. Keep in mind this is our intranet site just for inventory info. Once completed this info will be available on an internet/public site.

<http://sxgstc02.gsc.wo.fs.fed.us/naturewatch/index.htm>

Submitted By: Don Virgovic, USFS, NatureWatch Program Leader

• SOIL

Jerry Freeouf Retires After 31.5 years of Federal Service!

Jerry, a native Nebraskan, will retire on January 3, 2007. His diverse career began in the Army where he served for three years beginning 1963. He earned his Bachelor's and master's degrees in Soil Science from Texas A & M University in 1975.

Jerry's Forest Service career began on the National Forest of Texas in Lufkin, TX. He went on to serve as Forest Soil Scientist on two other National Forests, i.e., Shawnee and the Superior, before accepting the Rocky Mountain Regional Soil Program Leader in 1989.

His major accomplishments include completion of the revision of the National Hierarchy of Ecological Units (ECOMAP) Section and Subsection maps and descriptions, leading the regional Burned Area Emergency Response program including the historic Hayman BAER Project, and participation as an instructor in the Geology and Ecosystem field course conducted in Montana.

Retirement plans include staying in the Denver area for the time being. He and his wife plan on taking to the road in their motor home over the next few years visiting sites and friends around the country.

The WFW staff wishes Jerry and his family well on their future endeavors.

Submitted By: Randy Davis, WO/WFW, National Soils Program Leader

- **WILDLIFE**

Answer the Call...for Project Proposals

Due Date: January 8, 2007

Answer the Call is a partnership between the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and Quail Unlimited (QU) benefiting upland bird habitat on public lands. Return completed form to: Roger Wells, 868 Road 290, Americus, KS 66835 (620-443-5834) (Fax 620-443-5817), email: roger@qu.org or rnwells@bluestemtelco.com

[Proposal Request Letter 46.5 kb](#)

[Proposal Form 52 kb](#)

Contact: Gail Tunberg; 505-842-3262

Submitted By: Gail Tunberg, USFS, R3, WFRP

Teaming with Wildlife: 2007 Fly-In Day!

Teaming with Wildlife had 2006 Fly-In Day participants from all but 7 states! Join the 2007 Fly-In February 27 to March 1. Registration and hotel reservations are available at: www.teaming.com/flyin_2007.htm

Teaming with Wildlife is a coalition of more than [4,500 organizations](#) working to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered by supporting increased state and federal funding for wildlife conservation. This coalition includes wildlife managers, conservationists, hunters and anglers, businesses, and many others who support the goal of restoring and conserving our nation's wildlife.

- **OTHER**

Surface Transportation & Natural Resources ::: NEW Online Training

US Department of Transportation – Office of Federal Lands Highway, announced December 12, 2006, the availability of web based training for federal lands management agencies on surface transportation programs. Learn the administrative “ins” and “outs” and funding sources.

www.fs.fed.us/eng/transp/safetea-lu/index.htm

Of special note are two presentations on transportation enhancements relating to wildlife and fisheries:

- Fish passages (Module G-Aquatics) by Mark Hudy
- Wildlife and Highways Mitigation (Module I) by Sandra Jacobsen

The training is designed as a series of self-study web-based training modules, applicable for federal, tribal, and State transportation and public land managers, local communities, and nongovernmental organizations.

Developed in partnership between Federal Highway Administration, USDI Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service.

[FHA Announcement Letter 607 kb](#)

Submitted By: Floyd A Thompson, III, USFS/WO/Rec & Heritage Resources, National Tourism & Byways Program Leader

Coming Events – Conferences & Meetings:

- **GENERAL/CROSS AREAS**

International Mediterranean Ecosystems Conference in Western Australia, Australia

MEDECOS XI 2007

September 2 – 5, 2007

www.medecosxi2007.com.au

Contact: Organizing Committee, medecosxi2007@bgpa.wa.gov.au

MEDECOS XI immediately precedes the International Society for Seed Science Meeting: Seed Ecology II. For those with an interest in both fields, the structure provides an opportunity to attend both MEDECOS XI and Seed Ecology II.

International Society for Seed Science Meeting: Seed Ecology II

September 9 – 13, 2007

www.seedecology2007.com.au

Contact: Organizing Committee, Seedecology2007@bgpa.wa.gov.au

- **WILDLIFE**

2007 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Elk Camp and Exposition

Due Date: February 22-25, 2007

Elk Camp and Exposition will be held in Reno, Nevada (Reno-Sparks Conventions Center and Silver Legacy Hotel). As you know, the Forest Service has a long and very successful relationship with RMEF, and we are currently preparing for another quality exhibit at this year's Elk Camp. This is an opportunity for biologists and other interested Forest Service employees to help staff the exhibit and share information with the public on elk management activities on National Forest System lands.

Contact: [Sandy Kratville](#), USFS/RMEF Liaison, 406-329-3588

RMEF web site at www.rmef.org

[Elk Camp Call Letter 50 kb](#)

[Sample Proposal Report 92 kb](#)

Technical Information & Publications:

- **GENERAL/CROSS AREA**

Recent forest insect outbreaks and fire risk in Colorado forests: a brief synthesis of relevant research.

Romme, W. H., J. Clement, J. Hicke, D. Kulakowski, L. H. MacDonald, T. Schoennagel, and T. T. Veblen. 2006. Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, Fort Collins, CO

http://www.cfri.colostate.edu/docs/cfri_insect.pdf

Newspaper articles relating to the CFRI publication:

Rocky Mtn News:

www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0,1299,DRMN_15_5176428,00.html

Denver Post: www.denverpost.com/search/ci_4737356

Denver Post/Editorial: www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_4742423

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS, WO/WFW, National TES Program Leader

- **WILDLIFE**

GTR 173: *Wildlife and Invertebrate Response to Fuel Reduction Treatments in Dry Coniferous Forests of the Western United States: a Synthesis*

Compiles available information on the effects of hazardous fuel reduction treatments on terrestrial wildlife and invertebrates in dry coniferous forests in the West. It focuses on thinning and/or prescribed fire studies in ponderosa pine, dry-type Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and mixed coniferous forests.

www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr173.html

Glen Contreras recommends biologists & Directors read this for reference.

Training – Tools – Interesting Information:

INTERESTING INFO

- **WILDLIFE**

Mountain Lions die of Bubonic Plague, WY

By Whitney Royster, Star-Tribune environmental reporter

[Casper Star-Tribune, WY - Dec 13, 2006](#)

JACKSON -- Four mountain lions in northwest Wyoming have died of bubonic plague, prompting specialists to warn people of the risks to hunters and domestic cat owners.

A female cougar and its kitten found dead this fall tested positive for the disease, and a third lion died of the plague in the greater Yellowstone area. A fourth cougar died of the plague in 2005. The mountain lions were all collared and part of a research project.

[For more of this story read Casper Star-Tribune.](#)

TRAINING

- **GENERAL/CROSS AREAS**

AgLearn Tip – Designate Your Supervisor

While doing your mandatory training (USDA folks) take a moment to designate your supervisor in your AgLearn profile. Do it in the “Summary” tab. Employees need to ID their supervisor – can’t be done by supervisors. It needs to be done because:

- Reviewing employees' training histories;
- Reviewing mandatory training compliance;
- Setting up IDPs for next year;
- SF182 approvals;
- Training registration approvals – some training requires ‘supervisor approval’ for registration. All training requires supervisor approval (technically) but at this time not all training administrators are using AgLearn’s automatic supervisor approval notification. Designating your supervisor now will eliminate complications.

USFS/WO/HR/Corporate Training

- **Updated Website ::** The WO Corporate Training has updated their website. It is useful in finding out information regarding Mandatory Training, AgLearn, support for employees and supervisors. Please direct your questions to the contacts listed on the site. <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/hrm/ct/index.htm>
- **New Employee Orientation ::** Rumor has it that some employees don’t know about our FSM and FSH. Be a ‘hip’ supervisor – go to the “New Employee

Orientation website with your employees.
http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/hrm/ct/neo_home.html

- **USFS/WO/HR/Corporate Training :: SkillSoft**
Online training. Licenses are still available. Train yourself silly over the holidays. <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/hrm/ct/SkillSoftOpportunities.html>

Submitted By: Audrey Talton, R6, HR

WFW – Continuing Education Program: Open to Everyone

The WFW Continuing Education program's workshops still have openings. Don't delay – register now in AgLearn.

Contact: [Shelly Witt](#), USFS, WO/WFW, Continuing Education Program Leader

Plain & Simple! Document Writing

March 13 – 15, 2007 (Davis CA)

\$180 (3 days) plus 6 months post workshop consultation.

Learn to write clearly. Write what you mean to say! You will **stop dancing around your point** and starting over with yet another mish-mash endless sentence. This will be one of your top 10 career training investments.

www.fs.fed.us/biology/education/workshops/psdw/index.html

Wildlife Conservation & Management

Online & Onsite (Blended Delivery Methods)

Online: April 2 – May 11, 2007

Onsite: May 14 – 18, 2007

www.fs.fed.us/biology/education/workshops/whpm/index.html

Regional Round Up

Share the great (or not so great) events or achievements going on in your Region.

- **Region 9:**

Chippewa National Forest :: Wildlife, Fish & Rare Plants staff

Extracted from Chippewa WFRP Newsletter/Vol 4.

Chantel M. Cook

For additional news from the Chippewa's WFRP program, see the latest newsletter:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/chippewa/publications/misc/main.htm>

Accomplishments :: In 2006, the Chippewa's Wildlife, Fish, and Rare Plants staff accomplished 31 projects totaling over \$441,000. Of these 31 projects, 16 were accomplished with partners, who include natural resource professionals from various governmental agencies, including Tribal, lake and watershed associations, local schools and universities, and civic organizations. In 2006, the Forest benefited from the work of at least 21 partners who contributed over \$79,000 in goods and services for wildlife, fish, and Naturewatch (interpretative) projects. Together we accomplished:

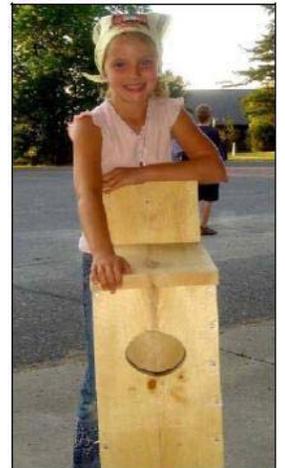
- 754 acres of terrestrial habitat improvements and 66 structural (wildlife) improvements
- 120 acres of lake habitat improvements & 5 miles of stream habitat improvements
- 5 miles of habitat inventory in streams and 23 acres of habitat inventory in lakes
- 2640 acres of Threatened, Endangered & Sensitive species habitat inventory (terrestrial & aquatic)
- 5 monitoring plans
- 1 administrative study, and
- 185 naturewatch presentations on wildlife, fish, and TES, reaching over 600 kids & adults (many of these were accomplished through the Visitor Center programs)
- 1 workshop on Forest Bird Diversity

Summaries for all of the 2004-2005 WFRP projects are available on the Forest Service website.

www.fs.fed.us/biology/managementsystem/index.html

Chippewa National Forest :: Blackduck Cub Scouts Build Habitat

On the afternoon of August 15th 2006, a dozen Cub Scouts from Blackduck, MN gathered at the Blackduck Ranger District office to assemble six bluebird houses and twelve duck boxes. The Cub Scouts worked with their parents, District staff, and Senior Community Service Employees learning how to use hand tools and build habitat for cavity dwelling species. They improved their hand-eye coordination and also gained the confidence and satisfaction that comes from building something of their very own. Although the Cub Scouts began by tentatively tapping with their hammers, within two hours they were accurately pounding the nails home. The noise of twelve pounding hammers was so loud, that you could barely hear yourself speak.



Employees from the Senior Community Service Employment Program did all the preparatory work for the event, using templates to cut wood stock into uniform parts, cutting out entrance holes, and tacking wire ladders on the inside of duck boxes to help the ducklings climb out. The Seniors also sanded cut edges to keep splinters out of the little fingers, and drilled pilot holes so that parts could be easily nailed together. Six parents, a Senior employee, and three Forest Service employees guided the Cub Scouts on how to use safety equipment, clamps, hammers, and nails.

The Cub Scouts later hung their bluebird houses along area hayfields, and duck boxes along local wetlands. These Blackduck Cub Scouts will watch with pride as birds nest in their boxes for years to come.

Ed Note: Mergansers, wood ducks and sometimes golden eyes use nesting boxes.



Vacancies & Employment Opportunities:

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- **AQUATIC/FISH**

USFS - National Fish Program Leader - ANNOUNCEMENT

Application Due Date: **January 9, 2007**

GS-0482-13/14. Announcement is open for the USDA Forest Service National Fish Program Leader position, for the Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plant Staff (WO/WFW). This permanent, full-time position located in the Nation's capital, is open to all federal employees, or those with re-instatement rights, who qualify for a GS-13 or GS-14.

[Announcement Link](#)

[Position Information DOC 408 KB](#)

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- **WILDLIFE**

USFS - National Wildlife Program Leader - ANNOUNCEMENT

Application Due Date: **January 9, 2007**

GS-0486-13/14. Announcement is open for our USDA Forest Service [National Wildlife Program Leader](#) position, for the Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants staff (WO-WFW). This permanent, full-time position located in the Nation's capital, is open to all federal employees, or those with re-instatement rights, who qualify for a GS-13 or GS-14.

[Announcement Link](#)

[Position Information DOC 417 KB](#)

- **OTHER**

USFS, Assistant Director for Resource Planning and Monitoring

GS-0101/0401/1301-14 : Portland, Oregon.

This position is located in the Pacific Northwest Region's (Region 6) Regional Office, Resource Planning and Monitoring (RPM) organization of the USDA Forest Service. The position shares responsibility with the Director for Resource Planning and Monitoring by providing technical and administrative leadership in the direction to all inventory, monitoring and evaluation programs throughout the Region. The position has particular focus on leading the Interagency Monitoring Program for the Northwest Forest Plan. The selected candidate will supervise a multi-agency staff consisting of one GS-13 for Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) and five GS-13 monitoring module leaders. The Assistant Director also leads and coordinates the strategic budgeting process for Inventory and Monitoring funds in Region 6.

For questions about the duties of this position, contact Lisa Freedman, Region 6 Director for Resource Planning and Monitoring at (503) 808-2271.

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/ftva.asp?seeker=1&JobID=51296619>

WFW Newsletter Contact Information: Disclaimer – Non Discrimination Statement

WFW Newsletter is a monthly newsletter without a clever name and is provided by the National Forest System Watershed-Fish-Wildlife-Air-Rare Plants staff (including Soils and Meteorology) of the USDA Forest Service. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted to Netta Grant at agrant@fs.fed.us or your favorite Program Leader no later than the 20th of each month. We reserve the right to edit contributions for clarity and brevity. Emphasis on brevity. Links to detailed URLs or documents are great – include them in your information contribution. If photos are included in your submission please provide alternative text with each photo. Alternative text should not repeat captions but describe the scene shown in the photo.

If brevity and clarity are a struggle for you, we recommend the "[Plain & Simple! Document Writing](#)" workshop instructed by Dr. Jud Monroe.

Vacancy Positions listed are for outreach purposes only and are not full announcements. Interested individuals should contact the units referenced or consult the [USAJOBS website](#).

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