



Enterprising People

An Enterprise Program Newsletter –
Supporting communications between Enterprisers
and our partners

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Enterprise Program Update

From Laura Nance, Acting Director, Enterprise Program

In February, the Director position was advertised as a NTE 1 year behind Bill Helin who is serving in a long term assignment. I applied for the Director NTE position and in mid-April was offered and accepted. My position as the Executive Officer for Digital Visions has been my dream job for 13 years. I have been deeply surprised by how much serving as Director has challenged and engaged me and I am excited to continue to contribute to the Program in this new way.

In March, the Enterprise Program Leadership (Executive Officers and the Program Office) met to dialogue about the current state of our program and begin to build a Strategic Plan. From this highly productive meeting, we came away with short term ideas and a blueprint to continue big thinking about how to address our challenges.

Since meeting, we have shared best practices across the units and have begun to experiment with new practices such as increased collaboration across units in operations and work delivery. This increase in collaboration is building our efficiency and ability to respond to Agency demand. Through this collaboration we were able to secure new work orders in areas where we were previously unable.

We have a number of broad ideas for increasing efficiency and customer service that continue to evolve within the Enterprise Program Leadership Team. In late July, employees will receive their first opportunity to provide initial input about the program for use in this planning process. Employee input will be used to further shape our planning efforts. Please watch for an email from me, with a link to an all EP employee survey. I hope for high employee participation in the survey. I look forward to reading your comments and using them to influence the planning efforts within our Program.

Growing a National Network of Children's Forests

Contributed by Rachel Franchina, Integrated Resources (InRe)

InRe employees Laurie Thorpe and Mike Hill and Stephanie Valentine, a shared TEAMS/InRe employee, have been instrumental in expanding and supporting the national network of Children's Forests. Children's Forests are places that connect youth and families with the outdoors. They provide high-quality outdoor learning experiences created by youth and community partners. They can be a designated area within a national forest such as on the San Bernardino National Forest (NF); kid's education and recreation programs offered by a national forest such as on the Chugach NF; or a network of national forest and special activities such as the Peaks to Prairies Children's Forest in Colorado. Among youth initiatives, Children's Forests are unique because they are place-based, and tied directly to a unit of the National Forest System.



Since 2011, Laurie's vision and work with the national leaders in the Youth Alliance – which is made up of the directors of recreation, conservation education, partnerships, fish and wildlife, and communications – has helped grow the network from the original three to 25 Children's Forests.

Stephanie provides overall project management and coordinates the Children's Forest community of practice. This peer-to-peer network allows practitioners from the USFS, other land management agencies and their partners in the broader community to share ideas, successes and lessons learned, and develop new approaches to strengthen the service delivery function and all aspects of individual Children's Forests.

Mike has brought his experience working with urban and underserved youth to the community of practice and serves on the Children's Forest coordinating committee. He is stationed in Washington, D.C., with easy access to Youth Alliance program leaders and their staff!

The Children's Forest project is a great example of successful collaboration among enterprisers, WO leaders, national forests, and community partners to get more youth engaged with the outdoors. For more information, check out the [Children's Forest online](#).

Alaskan Girl Scouts Benefit from ETS

On any other day, you might find Enterprise Technical Services (ETS) Civil Engineer, Eleanor Oman, out in the woods, planning and overseeing a variety of forest engineering projects. This past April, Eleanor and retired ETS Engineering Technician, Dennis Vogan, were creating bridges out of toothpicks and marshmallows built on a foundation of chocolaty goodness.

Eleanor and Dennis were volunteer workshop leaders in the Girl Scouts of Alaska Women of Science event. The one-day event at the University of Alaska Southeast Ketchikan campus introduced girls from kindergarten to 11th grade to "women in science." Workshop leaders ranged from Eleanor's civil engineering concepts to OceansAlaska Research and Education's class on "Tricky Fish" – highlighting the work women do every day in the sciences.

Both Eleanor and Dennis lead participants through many activities centered around the work they do daily for ETS in civil engineering. Their expertise in planning and building bridges came in handy when the girls were given toothpicks and marshmallows and could craft a building or bridge – discovering which structures were strongest. The Girl Scouts mixed asphalt out of chocolate and cereal with Eleanor while Dennis helped create a watershed out of crumpled paper and a plastic bag. The crumpled paper was stuffed in the plastic bag to create a watershed landscape. Dried Koolaid was sprinkled on top of the bag, then the Scouts sprayed water on the Koolaid and watched the colored "rivers" flow down the gullies and valleys of their "watershed", often forming lakes on their way.

Donning her bright orange vest and a pink hard hat as she settles in to reveal why the triangle marshmallow structure just might be sturdiest, Eleanor's commitment to her science of civil engineering is apparent. Sharing knowledge with today's youth and giving back to local communities supports the ETS mission – partnering with local organizations and cultivating a passion for the sciences and technical skill areas.



ETS Civil Engineer, Eleanor Oman and Girl Scouts at the end of a busy science session – chocolate "asphalt" and marshmallow structures come to fruition.



Retired ETS Engineering Technician, Dennis Vogan, shows the scouts how to see 3D in aerial photos.

New Editor for Enterprising People

The next issue of Enterprising People will be published in September by new editor, April Heesacker of Recreation Solutions Enterprise Unit. Both Enterprisers and partners are encouraged to continue sharing topics and ideas or joining the mailing list by contacting April at aheesacker@fs.fed.us. If you're interested in contributing to the next issue, please send your submissions by August 23, 2013. Enterprising People is a quarterly publication focusing on Enterprise teams and their partners.

Visit Enterprise on the web, <http://www.fs.fed.us/enterprise/>!

Recreation Solutions: Restoration Work

Located in the Eldorado National Forest, Indian Valley Meadow illustrates the cumulative restoration work of many, including Recreation Solutions. The Indian Valley Meadow is an approximately 500 acre meadow located at 8,000 feet in elevation and part of the Mokelumne Watershed – which provides drinking water and hydroelectric power for California’s East Bay area.

What began with sparse, dry land plants and an eroded and incised stream channel lowering the water table is now the beginning of a healthy meadow. Using “plug and pond” restoration method, the objective of the project was to restore hydrologic connectivity and meadow ecosystem function, enhance wildlife and plant habitat, and improve downstream water quality and water replenishment. In addition, through many partnerships, the restoration team engaged stakeholders and downstream users in the restoration of public lands and resources.

Jennifer Ebert, Recreation Solutions’ Natural Resource Planner, served as project liaison for the Eldorado National Forest and a critical link between the Pacific Southwest Regional Office and the multitude of partners – coordinating public relations efforts, field trips, and a large volunteer event at the end of September, 2012.

As a primary ingredient in the production of their beverage products, Coca-Cola Refreshments recognizes they must focus water stewardship and sustainability efforts beyond their bottling plants. Coca-Cola has a goal by 2020 to safely return to nature and to communities, an amount of water equal to what is used in their finished beverages and their production – essentially to be “water neutral.” Coca-Cola is expanding their partnership with the Forest Service, funding four water replenishment projects on National Forest System lands across the country, including another project in Region 5 on the Angeles National Forest. Recreation Solutions will be assisting with coordinating public relations efforts, including volunteer work day events and field trips.

For more information on Indian Valley Meadow and Recreation Solutions’ work, please contact Jennifer Ebert at jebert@fs.fed.us.



Funded through many partnerships with restoration work by many, the Indian Valley Meadow Restoration project was awarded the 2012 Regional Forester’s Award for outstanding efforts in Watershed and Forest Health.

Conflict Management and Prevention

For questions about the following Conflict Management and Prevention (CMP) workshops and webinars, or if you have concerns about your work environment, contact Melissa Marosy, Enterprise Program’s Conflict Management and Prevention Program Manager, mmarosy@fs.fed.us.

August 7, 2013, 1:00 p.m. ET

M.E.E.T on Common Ground; Speaking Up for Respect in the Workplace

Synopsis: M.E.E.T. on Common Ground was designed to help employees and managers recognize, respond to, and resolve difficult interactions that can stem from individual and cultural differences.

September 4, 2013, 1:00 p.m. ET

The Bully at Work

Synopsis: “The Bully at Work” exposes one of the workplace’s most challenging aspects – a silent problem that affects the lives, careers, and families of millions. Those bullied at work are affected by fear, shame, humiliation, and loss of dignity that originates at work and also affects other aspects of their life.

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