

BLUE RIVER CURRENTS

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Blue River Ranger District
Willamette National Forest

Summer 1991

Announcing...

The Cascade Center for Ecosystem Management

The Blue River District has a history of being a focal point for both research and research applications. Last year we conducted over 40 tours for our "customers," persons involved in industry, people from other agencies, forest service employees from other forests and regions, persons involved with environmental groups, the media, and non-affiliated persons interested in what we do here at Blue River and on the Andrews Forest.

In addition, last year the programs and projects of the District and the Andrews were featured in newspapers as diverse as the Portland Oregonian, New York Times, Statesman Journal and Worldwatch. In line with our history as a center for "new forestry" discussions, and consistent with the new perspectives philosophy that the Forest Service continues to

follow, the Willamette National Forest is joining forces with the Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) and Oregon State University (OSU) to establish the Cascade Center for Ecosystem Management.

Focusing on the unique relationship between Blue River and the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, the Center will:

- * promote **collaboration** and information exchange between applied and research foresters
- * oversee **demonstration** areas
- * study the **human** aspects of forest issues
- * feature **public** involvement in all phases of its operation.

Did you know that The Andrews Experimental Forest conducted much of the ecological research that precipitated the recent changes in management of national forest land in the region? The Cascade Center is an expansion of our historical relationship with the Andrews. Its purpose will be to address the growing interest in forest research, to expand research agendas, and to develop, test, and apply new information in forest management. **The aim will be to provide**



New Perspectives at Blue River

by John Cissel and
Cynthia Orlando

better information, new approaches, and more agreement in forest practices in the Northwest.

Adaptive Management

"Adaptive Management" is a mode of operation with which you may already be familiar. It is an active, information-seeking strategy, guiding the design of management, research, and monitoring projects at the Center.

The first premise of adaptive management is:

We do not — and may never — know all that we would like to about the operation of forest systems and their relationship to social systems, i.e. people, but we must proceed to manage them in the face of this incomplete knowledge.

The second premise of adaptive management:

New information will be shared, and forest management modified accordingly.

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Projects developed under adaptive management are designed to rapidly gain and apply information.

The Center will share information through tours, formal and informal presentations and publications, seminars, and possibly even videos. Our objective is to develop an information cycle in which new information is integrated with existing knowledge, evaluated, and used to modify or realign forest management. The Center will involve citizens in all stages of the adaptive management process.

Three Phases of Operation

Three overlapping phases will be featured in the Center's operation. In Phase I, management questions, public questions, and research questions are identified, focused, and prioritized. Some prioritization of issues has occurred via the Andrews/District Staff meeting held at the Unitarian church in Eugene last Fall, and via the Augusta Steering committee here on the District. High priority questions will drive project designs.

In Phase II, projects are carried out. Projects may take the shape of demonstrations, monitoring, or research. Demonstrations will test operational feasibility, answer questions that can be answered with minimal data collection and analysis, exchange information, and provide a forum for dialogue.

Research projects will produce scientifically reliable, statistically valid answers to difficult, long-term questions. Monitoring projects will examine the effectiveness of management plans and actions and provide valuable data for research projects.

Phase II Demonstration Areas on the Blue River District

Demonstration Areas are places on the district that provide examples of things like monitoring, research, and current management practices, such as:

Stand Level Silviculture:

- Ennis #3
- Sinne #5
- Cougar #1, 2, 3 (planning stage)
- Paws #1 & 3
- Stockstill #2 & 4
- Slim Scout #2, 3, & 4
- Wildwood #1 & 2
- Englemann Box #1, 2, & 3
- O'Leary #1 & 3
- Tweenum Annie (planning stage)



Research:

- Long-Term Site Productivity*
- Young Stand Management
- Alternative Silviculture *
- Basin-Level Hydrology Modeling *
- Landscape Scenario Evaluation
- Log Decomposition
- Invertebrate Taxonomy and Function
- Landscape and Regional Biodiversity *
- Fish Habitat
- Stream Ecosystem Function
- Old Growth Characteristics
- Spotted Owl Demography and Life History
- Forest Stand Dynamics and Ecology

* activities that are also occurring on other Ranger Districts

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Monitoring:



- Snag use in new harvest units*
- Green tree use in new harvest units*
- Fish habitat improvement: effectiveness
- Retrospective streamflow / land use history and relationship
- Quartz Creek down wood in streams

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Cascade Center - cont.

Landscape Level Biodiversity

- Cook-Quentin Minimum Fragmentation
- Upper Fall Creek Landscape Analysis*
- Augusta Creek Landscape Analysis (planning stage)



Partnerships

Partnerships will also play an important role in the Cascade Center for Ecosystem Management. Some examples:

- * Lookout Creek Old-Growth Trail
- * Fish Habitat Improvements
- * Cougar Hot Springs



More information about the Cascade Center for Ecosystem Management will be forthcoming at District Meetings and in future issues of *Blue River Currents*. If you have questions or suggestions about the Cascade Center, please feel free to talk to John Cissel, Lynn Burditt, or Cynthia Orlando.

Research Info Shared at "Field Daze"

The H.J. Andrews held their second annual "Field Daze" in early June. The intent of the 2-day event which took place at the Andrews and other parts of the District was to provide a forum for researchers to share their latest findings with students and with one another.

Fred Swanson (Forest Science and Geology), Art McKee (Plant Community Ecology), Stan Gregory (Fisheries and Wildlife), Mark Harmon (Forest Science), and Gordon Smith (Hydrology) were among the researchers who shared ongoing research information with a group of students at "Field Daze."

Fred welcomed the diverse group - which included students from University of Washington, Yale, and 6 visitors from Japan - to the Andrews, and provided them with an overview of the history and purpose of the H.J. For some of the attendees, "Field Daze" provided an opportunity for their first-ever visit to a Pacific Northwest forest.

At a streamside stop, the group learned from Stan Gregory the importance of stream ecosystem processes. Streamside canopy gap dynamics were discussed and students learned that flooding, not fire, causes the largest and most frequent disturbance to the landscape.

With Mona Creek basin as a backdrop, the group listened intently to an afternoon discussion on landscape management led by Fred Swanson and John Cissel. The group also visited the "Gap" timber sale area and discussed management practices at the Slim Scout sale area.



About the Newsletter:

Are there subjects of interest you would like to see more about in future issues of *Blue River Currents*? All feedback is welcomed.

Submissions: Black & White photos reproduce best although clear color photos are also acceptable. Articles may be edited in the interest of space.

To those who submitted articles for the newsletter, many thanks for your contributions...and to those who didn't, there's always next time!
Cynthia Orlando, Editor

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Through the Eyes of the Delta Hosts, Summer '90

by Paul & Melodie Pettyjohn

Coming back home after 20 years to Blue River and being at Delta Campground seen through the eyes of adults brings forth the real world that always surrounded us as kids. Both Paul and I experienced "country living" as kids, learning the sought-after secrets of the forest and feeling at home everywhere in the wild places.

As we walk through the park with a peaceful easy feeling, we gaze about us to the vine maples, oaks, cedar, fir and big leaf maple that bring back our childhood days. Paul is from Morton, Washington, 45 miles from Mt. Rainier. I am from Yoncalla, Oregon, known as Yellow Creek. Memories for the both of us can often be relived by being here.

I always refer to Delta as "God's Park." No proof is needed when one can look around and be able to see and hear and feel the beautiful area. People are attracted to alcove sites where they can go and be alone, canopied by vast tree branches that reach out in kindered friendship. Lush ferns, thick soft moss that we love to examine (for each looks like a tiny miniature fern), sweet sounds and sunlight...for this, perhaps, we each dream of such a place.

We enjoy campers that come from all over America and foreign countries, finding joy in the swimming hole in #4's backyard, basking in it, or cooling off from the sun with their feet in the water while sitting in folding chairs...laughing merrily and

having a wonderful time. Squeals and precious noises can be heard throughout the campground by joyful children carried on the air as it echoes, bouncing off the banks and tree branches, which seem to sway with the merry tune.

I often join in with happy campers and sit under a canopy of stars. Fire light dances, producing ghostly shadows, but spirited music warms joyful hearts as we strike up a note...soon we have a chorus of sweet sounds.

"Firelight dances, producing ghostly shadows..."

Ah yes, those charming old red country hand pumps that have drawn many visitors and comments. They add a rustic scene that is a part of Delta.

Paul and I, like visitors, enter into Delta Nature Trails' solitude. A pleasant peace soothes and caresses our senses unlike anything we've ever felt, like being in love for the first time. Just to stand on the bridge in the heart of the trail looking out over a watery space of blue and green, clouded wisps of puffed scenes from some place we thought we'd been...but then, not really!

Even though we've been raised in the forest, we never knew what a nurse log was till we were introduced to our new surroundings. Interesting to learn that a rotting tree is a feeding station. "Life feeding on life"...mmm, a catchy phrase.

We have immensely enjoyed knowing our Recreational Manager Roberto. Gabe and us have awarded him several names: "Prince of the forest," "Yogi-Barra," "Imperial Green Leader" (Gabe). We have come to love him not only as hosts under his command...but friends that share, that can openly have fun that turns into laughter. His brown eyes hold a special feeling that a lot of people miss, except for those who look deep into his "hearted being." He will always be special to us...and the day he leaves Blue River Ranger District will be a sad day for the hosts.

We thank Lynn Burditt and Rick Ley for the 'first ever' winter host experience and challenge we have been allowed to experience as hosts. Though we found it rewarding, Mr. Winter did give us quite a surprise! Staving through with iced pillows and walls, the generator saved us, and the full moon on the forest in snow was breathtaking.

Here at Delta, visitors are welcomed and hot coffee and lunch are offered with warmth and sharing. We have enjoyed being instrumental in several projects such as painting and putting together picnic tables with the Lyons Club. Roberto and Paul put up Aufderheide scenic signs along roads 19 and 126. Roberto, John Morehead, ourselves and our daughter Rebecca took part in restructuring the Terwilliger Hot Springs sign, putting in the foundation, then painting and putting it up. We undertook the chore of sweeping by hand Delta park roads. We had fun because campers joined in, in trade for a big chili dog feed...visitors generally are glad to work with us in

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Hosts, cont.

trade for hot meals, and we gain friends and an attitude of caring. We've met wonderful life-time friends.

We had a great time at the Neighborhood Watch Picnic whereupon we ate and chit-chatted with Nancy Simpson, Dave Burch and his wife.

We will always love Delta, and as long as time permits we will be her caretakers with the greatest care and love we can give. We cherish our experiences and friendships with folks from Cougar Maintenance, the Ranger Station, the other hosts, Lowell Nelson, who is charming and full of life, and of course, Roberto.

Of course Gene Flint would not be Gene without his beard and hat, that make up his handsome looks, with his twinkling blue eyes and ready smile. Charlene and Kat, the ladies we hardly see but rely on, are always ready to render services to a voice on the other end...their helping hand and smiles help to make for a good day. Warm smiles of Bill Reppy and Bennie Moore seem to ease a day's burdens.

The willingness to share and to make someone laugh and smile is worth the effort. We thank all of you who have befriended us.

Delta Hosts Paul & Melodie

Editor's Note: Hosts Paul & Melodie are no longer with us... Our new Delta Hosts are Curtis & Dorothy Rutledge of Springfield. Welcome aboard, we're glad to have you here!



1984 Commemorative Envelope

There were enough people between Blue River and McKenzie to merit holding our own Guard School (Fire 101) this year. So, instead of our people having to travel to Detroit or Rigdon, Lowell and Rigdon and the SO sent their people to us.

Unlike last year when the graduates didn't even get to take the final exam (because they were shipped to a fire), this year's graduating class did not even get to smell any smoke: the game was called on account of rain. Not only did folks not get to dig line, they didn't get to find the well-hidden contingency hose (just in case the graduates didn't catch the fire in time).

Blue River's class of 1991 included: Ann Reed (Silviculture), Pamela Wright (Plans), Aaron Pernela (Trails), Melissa Hiddleston (STEP), and Marty Patrick, Misty Skinner, Deb Stone and Kipchoge Ivan Cody Gladstone Spencer (Fire and Fuels). And yes, that really is Kipchoge's name...all of it.

Just to make a point of it all, the lightning storm that came through on June 27th left a holdover strike on Hi-Yu ridge that finally came to discernable life in the heat of July 1st. Summer is maybe finally here.

I know it felt like June was still winter... besides enjoying the sunshine of July, please be fire-ready when going to the field.

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Letters We Like to Receive

The following letter of thanks was received by the Ranger last month:

Dear District Ranger Burditt:

This is a long overdue letter to express my appreciation and commend two members of your staff, Theresa Legris and Kathy Hiddleston, for their special efforts on my behalf. Approximately six weeks ago, I was hiking on the French Pete trail south of Cougar Reservoir. While changing in the trailhead parking lot following the hike, I apparently set my prescription glasses on top of my vehicle and left them there upon switching to my sunglasses for the drive home.

It wasn't until I had returned to Eugene that I noticed my glasses were missing. Immediately suspecting what probably had happened (it isn't the first time I have performed such a lame brain action), I called your office first thing on Monday morning with a rather long shot hope that perhaps someone might find the glasses on the road before they were crushed, and turn them over to a Forest Service employee.

Kat was very pleasant and helpful in taking my phonecall and assuring me she would put the field staff on alert for my glasses. She even resisted the temptation to laugh or kid me about my stupidity, something I'm not sure I could have done. A few days later Theresa called me to report she had found the glasses on the side of the road where someone had thoughtfully probed them on a stick supported by a pile of rocks. Theres not only called to deliver the good news, but went to the extra trouble of delivering them personally to my home in Eugene on her day off. I couldn't believe it!

I realize that it probably is seldom that someone calls or writes you to compliment your staff or other aspects of National Forest Service operations. I only regret that it has taken me so long to do just that. I was duly impressed with the personal attention I received for my little dilemma of stupidity and I trust that you will pass that message on with my thanks to both Theresa and Kat, and anyone else whom you'd care to share it with. Of course I am also thankful to the anonymous soul who went to the effort of removing my glasses from the road and mounting them in a conspicuous location to be found. It's a good feeling to know that I share the Forest with people like them!

Sincerely,

Bill Brakken
Eugene

Reservoir Discoloration Brought About by Natural Causes

An algae bloom at Blue River Reservoir created some interesting challenges for Blue River employees just prior to the Memorial Day weekend. On Thursday, May 23, a bluish-green fluorescent substance was spotted floating within the reservoir along the west side of Saddle Dam.

The material was not immediately identifiable as a natural substance, so the decision was made to investigate further. Spencer, Inc., a private environmental lab, was contacted and arrived at the reservoir Friday morning just after midnight. Preliminary information indicated an unnatural substance so the decision was made to advise the public against ingesting fish caught in the area. Subsequent testing indicated that there was no chemical contamination.

Both Mike Gibson of Spencer, Inc., and Stan Gregory of OSU and the Andrews agree that the funny discoloration was brought about by natural causes, specifically, a blue-green algae known as anabaena.

So what did this stuff actually look like? Ward described it as fluorescent turquoise in color, diluted within the top 1 - 2 feet of water. Along the shoreline it took on a different appearance with thick accumulations of 1/8 - 1/4" in depth, and a sort of "drying paint" appearance that looked very unnatural. "This algae type can grow explosively and deplete oxygen in the water, but it also dies off very quickly," added Ward.

A Fine Day for Fishing

by Jim Capurso

The Blue River and McKenzie Ranger Districts sponsored a Fishing Derby for Free Fishing Day this year at Blue River Reservoir. The Fishing Derby, put on in cooperation with The Emerald Empire Northwest Steelheaders, was held from 8:00 to noon at Lookout Boat Ramp on Blue River Reservoir. The derby included longest fish caught and distance casting contests for kids. There were interpretive displays, boat rides, and fishing instructions for the kids. Area merchants contributed lots of prizes and gifts! The activities were geared toward children age 14 and under, and more than 50 young people attended!

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Happy Trails

The Blue River District workforce has gone through a number of changes this past year. Among them:

Adieu to:

We've bid farewell to several employees this past year. They're gone but not forgotten! We hear good things from:

John Fish: John was promoted to GS-802-11 on the Wenatchee National Forest. He's enjoying his new job which deals with the reclamation of mine tailings.

Hal Stadel: Hal's enjoying his new job as Administrative Officer on the Oakridge Ranger District.

Roberto & Gracie Ybarra: Roberto and Gracie moved on this summer to the Tonto Basin Ranger District. Roberto is staying as busy as ever as Recreation Manager while Grace enjoys the challenges of being both an information receptionist and working in timber.

Pat Greenlee took a lateral to the Supervisor's Office and is really enjoying the challenges of her position in wildlife.

Sam Smith recently received a promotion to wage supervisor GS-9 on the Prineville District of the Ochoco NF, while **Dona Harbick** was recently promoted to Administrative Officer GS-9 on the Silver Lake Ranger District of the Freemont.

Resigned:

**David Sakota and
Mary Gautreaux**

Moves On-District:

* Tere de Silva (HJ.A. / G.I.S.)
* Elaine Peterson (Information Receptionist)
* Charlene Mikkelsen (Recreation Technician)

"NTE" Employees:

Aimee Walker was offered and accepted an NTE-2 year promotion to GS-11 with the BLM.

Andy Miller has moved on to the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest where he continues to work in wildlife.

Laura Sammy has moved on to the sunny environs of Florida.

Norm Barrett just received a permanent full-time position as wildlife biologist in Kemmering, Colorado.

Other News:

Larry Bates was recently promoted to GS-9, and has passed his tests for Engineering Representative, while Mike Mattarese has been receiving top scores in his TFM class.

Congratulations, one and all!!!

Fishing Day, cont.

At 1:00 p.m. a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the new barrier-free access fishing site at Trail Bridge Reservoir on the McKenzie Ranger District. Representatives from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Eugene Water and Electric Board, McKenzie Ranger District, and the physically challenged community were on hand to celebrate their cooperative accomplishment and to look toward future challenges in providing barrier-free recreational opportunities.



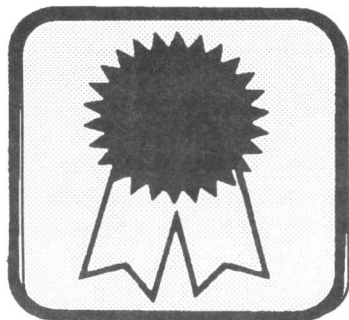
Ranger Lynn measures a fish caught by some lucky youngster at "Free Fishing Day"



Smokey & company checking out a fishing reel at Free Fishing Day

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Promotions and Awards

Pat-on-the-Back Awards:

- * Karen Geary
- * Mike Matarrese
- * Gene Flint
- * Lowell Nelson
- * Sam Swetland
- * Gracie Ybarra
- * Barb Crawford
- * Michele Vidal
- * Steve Gabriel
- * Charlene Mikkelsen
- * Debbie Clauson
- * Elaine Peterson
- * Norm Barrett

Employee of the Quarter:

*** Tere Desilva ***

Congratulations, one and all!

One Day in June...



The whole district turned out for "One Day in June" recently. Thanks go to Karen Geary for taking the lead role in organizing the day. Here, district employees pose for a group shot that will be included in our 10-year time capsule which will be opened in the year 2001.



Charlene Mikkelsen is enjoying the many challenges of her new job as Recreation Technician.