

Summer 2022



THE 45TH PARALLEL



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Message from the Forest Supervisor



With the summer season here, many of us find ourselves either out working or enjoying (and sometimes both) the wonderful Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. I am amazed at the many ways and opportunities we can work together as employees and with our partners. In the face of many challenges, I want to thank you for all your hard work and long hours.

Your efforts are making a great impact here on the Forest but also across the Blue Mountains and the Pacific Northwest Region. We are recognized as leaders in restoring forests, rivers, and watersheds for our communities. We are making great strides in Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CLFRP) efforts, working with our research

partners at Starkey and engaging with our Tribal Partners, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Nez Perce Tribes. I also want to recognize all the hard work that goes into providing world class recreation opportunities like the Wilderness Systems and Hells Canyon Recreation Area with the Snake River. Again, Thank You for the countless hours and dedication to making the Wallowa-Whitman the fantastic place it is.

We have thankfully had a wet Spring, but field season and fire season will continue to unfold in the coming weeks. Please prioritize safety - safety is our job, not an aspect of it. I want to ensure we all return home healthy at the end of the day and the end of the season. Please continue to deliver our mission in a safe manner. Take the time you need to ensure we are always doing it the safe way. I would also like to encourage you to pay attention to the stress and mental toll our jobs can produce. Take time for yourselves, check in with yourself, your families, and colleagues. Please stay safe. - Shaun



MATTHEW BURKS
(ACTING) PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
.....

Wallowa-Whitman Public Affairs Team



JOSEPH BLACK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST
.....

When should I Check Out/In?

- When leaving your assigned duty station to go to the field
- Fill out a overnight/back country itinerary when staying in the field overnight at a non administrated site, check out and in daily.
- When leaving your ranger district to go to another district for the day
- When working as a fire resource, check in at the beginning of each shift and check out at the end of each shift
- When returning from any previously reported location

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT:

BMIDC Check Out/In

With many Wallowa-Whitman National Forest employees working in field conditions with limited cellular connectivity, it is important to know how to properly check out and in with the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center. This year, the BMIDC will be tracking ALL fire resources and Forest personnel that leave a federal facility and travel to the field or to another federal facility outside of their duty station location. This will be accomplished through the radio system. To report in or out, use the following format:

1. Who you are reaching out to + Give your Call Sign + Repeater:

“Dispatch this is Smith on Emily”

2. Wait for Dispatch to acknowledge: “Smith this is Dispatch, go ahead.”

3. Give information as needed, being concise while providing as much detail about location and personnel as possible: “Smith plus 2 leaving La Grande to Baker City for the day.”

4. Listen for Dispatch to acknowledge the traffic. : “Smith La Grande copies.”

5. Repeat throughout the day to give updated information.



“Safety is more important than Convenience.”
-Don Hambidge

HIGHLIGHTING OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE: BILL GAMBLE

by Joseph Black, Public Affairs Specialist

After over 30 years of service with the U.S. Forest Service, the La Grande Ranger District bids farewell to its district ranger, Bill Gamble, who is retiring at the end of June. We sat down with Bill to discuss his time in the Forest Service and as the district ranger in La Grande. This is his story.

“My first job with the Forest Service started in 1987 as a seasonal marking crew member on the South Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit in California. I was about halfway through my college education and hadn’t really decided how I wanted to apply myself in the field of natural resources. Working as a marking crew member was a lovely experience. We had a cabin right on Lake Tahoe as part of our housing, and one of the crew even had a ski boat that we moored outside our cabin on the lake. It was a great introduction into the Forest Service, but I really wanted to see all the opportunities that were out there for natural resource forester work.

So, I took a break from the Forest Service to take an internship with Weyerhaeuser in western Washington providing an opportunity for me to see how private industrial forestry works. While a great experience, this internship prompted me to return to the Forest Service, as I realized multiple-use management to accomplish a myriad of objectives was a better fit for my interests and land ethic.

I remember standing in Peavy Hall, at Oregon State University in the fall of ’88, and on the wall, I saw a flyer that was asking people to sign up for cooperative education programs with the Forest Service. Not wanting to leave any stone unturned, I applied and had an interview with some very nice people from the agency. Golly, it took probably four months before I heard back and received a letter offering me a cooperative education position as a tree improvement forester on the Malheur National Forest in Grant County, Oregon.



BILL GAMBLE
DISTRICT RANGER, LA GRANDE RD

In my first permanent position with the agency, I was able to start applying myself as a forester, in this case, in tree improvement. As part of my job, we would go around the forest and identify trees that expressed quality traits and gather cones from them, then plant their progeny in evaluation plantations and seed orchards. Then over time, we would evaluate their performance growing across a range of sites and emphasize future seed collection from the best performing trees. This tree improvement program was really the Forest Service dipping their toes into the idea that we could capitalize on the genetics of our forest trees. With this work, we were able to improve planting

success and ultimately improve tree growth through the process.

But, as the agency’s mission shifted, there became less importance in rapidly growing trees, and the program faded away. By then, it was 1994 and I was directly reassigned as a silviculturist to the Prairie City Ranger District located on the Malheur.



Ranger Gamble on a field tour of the East Face Project, Wallawa-Whitman National Forest. Photo courtesy Mark Jacques, Oregon Department of Forestry.

Between '94 and '02, I worked as a certified silviculturist, while also doing several details as a hydrologist supporting interdisciplinary teams. In the early 2000's, I also met my wife Karen, who worked as a GIS analyst for the Malheur. In the summer of 2002, she was offered a GIS position outside the region in Idaho, and I tagged along and got a job as a hydrologist on the Payette National Forest where I worked for about six years.

We had a couple of interesting natural disturbances happen while working on the Payette. One of these disturbances was an F2 tornado that touched down in the middle of our district, which was named



Chief Tidwell and Ranger Gamble share stories at an employee gathering in La Grande, Oregon. USDA Forest Service photo by Matthew Burks.

the Bear Tornado. At that time, the ranger must have seen something in me and asked me to lead the tornado recovery team. So, I moved from hydrology into a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planner position. Then shortly after that, there was a large fire just outside of the community. I was asked to lead that effort up, and evidently did well enough that they suggested that I think about moving into a leadership position.

By this point, it was about 2006-2007, when I did my first ranger detail at the Weiser Ranger District on the Payette National Forest. After that detail, I took another ranger assignment in Ely, Nevada, where I was able to assist the district with transitioning to a new fulltime ranger after their long-time ranger fell ill.

It was while I was in Nevada, that I received an offer for my first official ranger position on the Diamond Lake Ranger District on the Umpqua National Forest and worked there until December 2011 when I was offered the position of district ranger for the La Grande Ranger District on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, where I have been ever since.

Since I've been in the ranger realm, I have done a couple of details. One as a deputy forest supervisor, and in 2015, I detailed as the forest supervisor for the Umatilla National Forest. This was a very challenging and rewarding experience as we dealt with extreme fire conditions threatening communities and landscapes across the region, including several major fires on the Umatilla.

As I draw closer to my retirement, I get to look back fondly at the amazing opportunities I have had to work in beautiful landscapes and the amazing people I have gotten to share them with. Some of my fondest memories with the Forest Service have been working with teams coming together under a shared vision to get things done.

“Some of my fondest memories with the Forest Service have been working with teams coming together under a shared vision to get things done.”

One of the best examples of this for me was the Bear tornado. It was one of the first times that I had been thrust into a leadership role, and an opportunity for me to realize that we can make a bigger difference for all natural resources through leading people. In this instance, our team was able to complete our analysis and have a signed decision guiding environmentally thoughtful and economically efficient recovery of a tornado damaged landscape within 82 days after the tornado touched down. 'NEPA light speed' and example of what we can accomplish when we work together under a common vision.

While I have had a successful career advocating for trees as a forester, and advocating for water and soil as a hydrologist, the opportunity to lead incredibly committed, passionate, and dedicated people is where we can make an even bigger difference to the natural resources and communities we serve.

Looking ahead, I hope that the Forest Service continues to emphasize the relevance and importance of our work to the public. To be able to show the members of our community that the work we do, caring



Bill and his wife Karen

for and stewarding our nation's forests, is meaningful. Over the past decade we have been very successful in advancing restoration of our forest landscape as well as our watersheds and I would love to see the next ranger come in, take the reins, and build on these successes through continued empowerment of the dedicated employees that make this holistic work happen.

As my time as a full-time employee with the Forest Service comes to an end, I look forward to the next chapter in my life, retirement. One of my main goals is to really embrace being in the moment, not always having my mind filled with the distractions that come from being a district ranger. Also, I look forward to spending time with my four grandkids and playing a

larger role in their lives. If I can just be a fraction of the influence on them that my grandfather was to me, I will feel like I have succeeded.

Getting to engage in long ignored hobbies and spending more time with Karen is also something that I look forward to. So, we will be doing a lot of hiking, biking, and camping, and just enjoying our local landscape after not having much opportunity to enjoy it between Karen's support to incident management teams over the years and my responsibilities as a ranger.

BILL'S MESSAGE

“My final message for the team is, just be a part of it. Know deep in your hearts that what we do matters. Show up every day, give it your best, always treat each other and our public with respect and professionalism, and that's a recipe for culminating your career in a manner where you can feel really good about what you've done and know that you've made a positive difference.” - Bill Gamble

Wallowa County Fire Prevention Cooperative (WCFPC), a non-profit established in 2006

By Linzi Smith, Fire Operations Clerk, WMO



"My style of presenting is to ignite as much excitement and fun when visiting with students. I want them to be so pumped up to answer questions about fire safety, get to know us, and then go home and talk to their families about what they learned that day," Linzi Smith.

The WCFPC is a not-for-profit organization that was established in 2006. The organization's purpose is to promote the prevention of destructive fires through coordinated fire safety education programs and presentations.

The members are composed of people affiliated with a fire protection agency including: The USFS Wallowa Fire Zone, Wallowa ODF, and local fire departments including Joseph Fire Dept., Enterprise Fire Dept, Wallowa Fire Dept., Lostine Fire Dept., and Joseph Rural Fire Dept., as well as the county emergency services representative within the WCFPC boundary. Partners have included Building Healthy Families headquarters in Enterprise, local education districts, individual landowners, and OSU extension service.

In the 16 years that the WCFPC has been operating, over 2500 elementary school students have been reached with fire prevention education. Each student received goodie bags that notably included smoke detectors for their family's home as well. At a minimum, 2500 homes were made safer, and wildland forest fire human starts lowered immeasurably. If one was to count total people impacted by WCFPC efforts through festivals, parades, hunter letters, and education programs it would be over 15,000 easily.

This connects with my work as Fire Operations Clerk on the WWNF because, as part of my job duties on the Wallowa Fire Zone, I manage the fire prevention program. Part of that program is to be an active member and partner with the WCFPC as a rep of the USFS. This falls into my hands, and I am most passionate about this part of my job! I mean, who doesn't like rolling up to the schools with America's heroes in tow and educating our youth?

Collectively, with the WCFPC, and our Wallowa Fire Zone we have a better relationship and partnership because of the familiarity of interacting with each other's agency managers, engines, and crews on a regular basis. The WCFPC truly connects and overlaps our differing agency missions; by affirming we are all on the same team when fighting fire or educating the public.



Sparky and the Wallowa County volunteer fire department.

WCFPC main annual projects:

- 1) Smoke Detectors in the home program, at the schools, with Sparky the Fire Dog, K-2nd grades.
- 2) Smokey Bear Wildland Fire prevention program at the schools, with Smokey Bear K-2nd grades.
- 3) Numerous Wallowa County appearances in festivals and parades.
- 4) Public Statement Announcements on local KWVR radio, and Newspaper advertisements.

Whitman District Watershed Tour

by Sarah Brandy, Bob Hassmiller, Will Glenn, and Jamie Ratliff

June 1st was a fantastic day on the southern part of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest! Thanks to the acting Forest Fish Biologist, Sarah Brandy, for setting up the tour and assisting with food! The Whitman District Aquatic Group, Hydrologist, Bob Hassmiller, and Fisheries Biologist, Will Glenn, led a tour profiling the climate change adaptation opportunities and areas with fish and wildlife opportunities with Forest Supervisor, Shaun McKinney, members of the Forest Leadership Team and partners from the Powder Basin Watershed Council. Forest staff helped lead discussions regarding future project opportunities on Camp Creek and beyond. Camp Creek is a project that leveraged Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB provided approximately \$160,000 for 2023 implementation) and the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (added \$20,000) funding last fall from seed dollars offered by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (\$17,700). The project is expected to restore the physical processes and ecological functions to meadow and floodplain habitats using youth local crews that mimic beaver dams and their engineering. This project will engage the community in restoring public lands and



Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Employees and partners participate in a Watershed tour on the Whitman District, June 1, 2022. USDA photo by Sarah Brandy

by maintaining water as an ecosystem service. Students at Baker High School will be major players in restoration for this project. Thanks to the Powder Valley Watershed Council for leading the project for the Whitman Ranger District.

Bull Run Creek, an important tributary in the North Fork of the John Day basin, was the second stop on the watershed tour. Bull Run subwatershed is the district's highest priority for restoring streams on the Whitman District with the multiple ESA species occupying these areas. This part of the district is an area that was historically impacted from various mining practices, including dredge tail mining. John Zakrajsek, Habitat Program Manager for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for the North Fork John Day Basin, joined and gave an overview and history of an exciting restoration project on Bull Run Creek, which is planned to be implemented in 2023. This project was built upon a strong partnership with the Whitman District and the Umatilla Tribes! Thanks to all that joined us in the discussion and supporting the Aquatics Group on the Whitman RD.

THANK YOU!

MONITORING THE SUCCESS OF FOREST RESTORATION

By Christal Johnson, Ecologist, Blue Mountains Area Ecology Program



This year's monitoring crew (L to R: Rachel Lindsey, Tim Comrie, and Rosa Arellanes) measuring *Lomatium*, a first foods species of importance to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla. Photo by Bryan Endress.

Designing and planning field monitoring for the Northern Blues Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) 2022 field season has been a collaborative effort that has staff on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF), members of the Blue Mountain Ecology Program (based on the WWNF), and partners from external groups hard at work. Some of this work began in 2020, when the Northern Blues CFLRP proposal was recommended as the top ranked new CFLRP Proposal in the nation by a federal advisory committee and awarded federal funding for forest restoration projects. The project area covers over 10 million acres across the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla

National Forests and surrounding private and tribal lands, and the work is coordinated and implemented through partnerships and collaboration with the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative, the Northern Blue Mountain Cohesive Wildfire Strategy Partnership, My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership, and local watershed councils. The over-arching goal of the project is to prepare the landscape to receive beneficial wildfire, shifting the landscape towards a more resilient state to fire, drought, and other disturbances. Ten percent of the project's funds are devoted to monitoring, with the goal of tracking treatment implementation, ensuring treatment effectiveness, and providing information to



Last year's monitoring crew (Back to front: Tim Comrie, Chelsea Smith, and Jamie Rand) as they lay out a forest plot. All plots will be re-measured in future years to track effectiveness and any potential impacts of restoration treatments. Photo by Caitlin Rushlow.

inform and adapt future management. Since the CFLRP was selected for funding, the Northern Blues Monitoring Team has worked to develop local monitoring questions, provide input on developing national monitoring questions for all CFLRPs, devise field protocols and methods to collect and analyze monitoring data, and hire and train monitoring crews. The monitoring team, which is led by Jim Brammer (Natural Resources Staff Officer for the Wallowa-Whitman NF) and Caitlin Rushlow (Monitoring Coordinator for Wallowa Resources) and includes members of Blue Mountains Ecology team, has worked with subject matter experts from the Forest

Service, Oregon State University, Klamath Bird Observatory, and the CTUIR DNR to create monitoring protocols that encompass white-headed woodpecker habitat, aspen, first foods of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, key invasive species, fuels, stand structure and composition, understory vegetation, and old-growth trees and snags. Plots are planned for commercial, non-commercial, pre-commercial thinning and prescribed burn units. There are further plans for opportunistic monitoring of areas within the CFLRP that experience wildfire, such as the Lick Creek Fire on the Umatilla National Forest.

Notes From the Forest

Divide WUI Timber Sale by Clint Foster



The Divide WUI timber sale was the first planned GNA sale on the Forest and was awarded/sold in June of 2021. (It was the second awarded GNA sale following Mr. Rogers on the Whitman). The NEPA for this project was completed under the Category 14 CE authority and signed by Kris Stein in April of 2019. Following that decision, ODF was provided the project's Rx and marking guides and completed the presale implementation during the 2020 field season. As mentioned above, the 230-acre sale was finally awarded in 2021 and the purchaser started operations this past December.

Thank You from The Ryan Sullivan Memorial Golf Tournament by Joel McCraw

Good morning, I wanted to take a little time to thank everyone that participated in or donated to the 4th annual Ryan Sullivan Memorial Golf Tournament. Over the years we have raised money for local families in need that are dear to our hearts and this year was no different. Adam and Denise Radford are very special to us and this year we were able to raise \$9,000 to help Adam beat Lymphoma. I can't thank everyone enough for the continued support of this event. This just proves to me why Northeast Oregon is the best place to live. My many thanks to everyone and we look forward to seeing everyone next year on June 2nd. Have a great day.



Wildlife Monitoring Update by Jamie Ratliff



In the spring of 2022, we kicked off a new monitoring program on The Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests to help us measure the effectiveness of our forest restoration treatments. We deployed over 100 autonomous recording units (ARUs) across the two forests, in stands that will be undergoing a variety of treatment types, including commercial and non-commercial thinning, and prescribed fire.

These recording units will be placed in the woods each spring to record white-headed woodpecker and other species that are significantly impacted by forest management. The recorded bird calls can be analyzed by software that helps us determine which species

are using the habitat areas. This new technology will greatly increase the efficiency and accuracy of our surveys and the data will help inform our management and help us meet our obligations under NFMA and NEPA.

This project has been funded by the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, and the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station.



Lisa Sproat

Give a Hoot: Protect the Owls

Many people have sought the great gray owl, a striking bird standing 56 cm tall with a wing span in excess of 1.5 m. It is easily recognized by its gray plumage; large, circular facial discs surrounding bright yellow eyes; and lack of ear tufts. Yet, this owl is not easily observed because of its low numbers, nocturnal habits, and secretive nature.

If You See Owls or Nests:

1. When viewing Great Gray Owls and taking pictures, you should not stay in the area around them for extended periods of time, and maintain a minimum distance of 50 feet
2. Use a spotting scope and a telephoto lens, and be content to watch from a safe distance. Watching from a distance means that you will not be interfering with the owl's natural behavior. This has its own rewards such as, observing the owls interacting with each other and their young, watching them rest on a branch, or even spotting them hunt!
3. Just because the owl may tolerate a fairly close approach doesn't mean you should push the envelope. If the owl is visibly reacting to your presence — fidgeting, repeatedly staring at you, head-bobbing or changing position — you're too close, and need to back off immediately.
4. Always remain quiet when you are in the owl's space. They use their keen hearing to hunt prey and outside sounds can distract them from hunting and watching out for predators. Never use bird calls and other sounds to attract or get a reaction from an owl. Especially during breeding season, owls are using tons of energy to provide food their young and themselves. It's important that we don't distract them from their current task.



Lisa Sproat

Facts About The Great Grey Owl

- Great Gray Owls are considered to be the tallest owls in North America.
- They only weigh 2.5 lbs. They are lighter than and have smaller feet and talons than both the Great Horned Owl and Snowy Owl.
- Great Gray Owls are relatively docile and are not very territorial.
- Due to their size, they have few natural predators.
- They will aggressively defend their owlets, especially when they fledge 3 to 4 weeks after hatching. The owlets jump or fall out of the nest and remain fairly helpless on the ground for roughly 2 weeks before they learn to fly.
- Great Gray Owls tend to not migrate south during the winter.
- Great Gray Owls are big owls, which means that they need to eat regularly. In the winter, they eat up to 7 vole-sized small mammals every day.
- Great Gray's are one of the few owl species that can be found naturally on other continents as well.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

New employees and promotions on the Forest

Acacia Probert – Executive Assistant to the Forest Supervisor, Supervisor's Office

Cameron Naficy – Ecologist, Supervisor's Office

Chris Henderson – Timber Presale Lead, Wallowa Mountains Office

Jackson Riepe – Timber Presale Forestry Technician, Wallowa Mountain Office

Jan Boyer – Fisheries Biologist, Wallowa Mountains Office

Jason Lyman – Forest Training Officer, Wallowa Mountains Office

Jeremy Pribyl – North Zone Archeologist, Wallowa Mountains and Hells Canyon NRA

Joel McCraw – Deputy Fire Staff, La Grande District

John Anderson – River Ranger, Wallowa Mountains Office

Keith Dunn – Fire Management Officer, Whitman District

Nancy Goodding – Support Services Staff, Whitman District & Supervisor's Office

Sam Vaughan – Forest Service Representative in Timber, Supervisor's Office

Will Glenn – Fisheries Biologist, Whitman District

*“The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.”
– Lao Tzu*

Details on the Forest

Beckijo Smergut-Wall – Range Management Specialist, Wallowa Mountains Office

Deana Wall – Deputy Forest Supervisor & Blue Mountains Forest Revision, Supervisor's Office (Returned to Duty Station in July)

Ian Adler – Marking Crew Foreman, La Grande District

Jennifer Taylor – Forest Recreation Program Manager (river management & partnerships), Supervisor's Office

Marie Gaylord – Fish Biologist, La Grande District

Matthew Burks – Public Affairs Officer, Supervisor's Office

Robin Robertson – Budget Officer, Supervisor's Office

Sarah Brandy – Forest Aquatics Program Manager, La Grande District

Savannah Dunn – Silviculture Technician, La Grande District

Will Brendecke – Deputy District Ranger, Wallowa Mountains Office

Tyrone Clark – Executive Assistant to the Forest Supervisor, Supervisor's Office (Returned to Duty Station in March)

*“There's never enough time to do all the nothing you want.”
– Bill Waterson, Calvin & Hobbes.*

Retiring, moving on, and promotions off the Forest

Bill Gamble – District Ranger, La Grande District

Clint Foster – Forest Silviculturist, Umatilla National Forest

Denise Radford – Supervisory Budget Analyst, Region 6

Heather Thompson – Customer Service Representative, Wallowa Mountains Office

Melissa Swain – Incident Business Specialist, RO Region 1



IN THE NEWS

Forest Service releases study for 22 proposed mining operations in Baker County - *Written By Jayson Jacoby, Baker City Herald*

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is proposing to approve 22 mining operation plans along Powder River tributaries southwest of Baker City and near Sumpter.

The Wallowa-Whitman last week released a draft environmental impact statement, EIS, that's been in the works for about four years.

Some of the miners, however, have been waiting even longer for their plans to be approved.

The 224-page draft EIS analyzes the potential environmental effects from the proposed mining operations on the national forest.

Locations near Sumpter include claims along Cracker, McCully, Deer and Lake creeks, and Buck Gulch.

https://www.argusobserver.com/sports/forest-service-releases-study-for-22-proposed-mining-operations-in-baker-county/article_cc1f3f0a-f717-11ec-b0d6-8f36ad6a1d59.html

Nez Perce National Historical Trail more than just scenic

Written By Kathryn Sosbe, Office of Communication

When Sandi Broncheau-McFarland stands on the Nez Perce National Historical Trail she sees two stories.

As administrator she sees the 1,700-mile span that stretches from Wallowa Lake, Oregon, to the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, Montana. As an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe, she also sees the feet of her ancestors who carved out the trail over years of use, and of the tragic loss of many of her ancestors during a five-month confrontation with the U.S. Army.

"From my perspective, the Nez Perce Trail is very special to the Forest Service because it's the only historic trail we administer," Broncheau-McFarland said. "Although historic trails have the same elements, such as character, beautiful scenery, and interpretation, there were never intentions of it to be a long-distance trail like a scenic trail. This trail is protected because of what many people call the War of 1877. We call it the flight."

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/features/nez-perce-national-historical-trail-more-just-scenic>

Picking and planting: BHS students help start a new forest, and find some tasty fungi - *Written By Lisa Britton, Baker City Herald*

Cierra Lafferty pats the soil around the newly planted ponderosa pine seedling, then gives the needles a gentle tug to make sure it's secure in the ground.

"Welcome to your new home," she says, her words nearly whisked away by the wind whipping across Dooley Mountain, about 15 miles south of Baker City.

Then she stands, pulls her phone from a pocket and holds it close to the tree.

"Blog moment!" she says, snapping a picture of the seedling, then photos of her buddies.

On Wednesday, May 18, science students from Baker High School helped plant ponderosa seedlings along the Skyline Road in an area burned by the Cornet-Windy Ridge fire in August 2015.

https://www.bakercityherald.com/news/local/picking-and-planting-bhs-students-help-start-a-new-forest-and-find-some-tasty-fungi/article_c75f4022-d774-11ec-830c-677635662b72.html

THANKS FOR READING!



The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest encompasses 2.4 million acres of public lands in northeastern Oregon and western Idaho. Our staff serve the public from offices in Baker City, La Grande, and Joseph, OR; Riggins, ID; and Clarkston, WA.

Ecosystems range from the alpine peaks of the Elkhorn, Seven Devils, and Wallowa Mountains (reaching as high as 9,843 feet), to the spectacular grasslands and canyons surrounding the Snake River (reaching as low as 875 feet), and the vast watersheds, rangelands, and conifer forests in between. There are ten Wild and Scenic Rivers, four Wilderness Areas, and one famous Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

The Wallowa-Whitman is part of the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service (an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture). Our mission is to “sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.”



WANT TO HAVE YOUR STORY PUBLISHED IN THE 45TH PARALLEL?

Contact your local public affairs specialist or your supervisor for more information



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