



National Museum of Forest Service History

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A Non Profit Corporation

www.nmfs-history.net

Annual Report September 1, 2008

We are proud of our role in preserving the traditions and history of the U. S. Forest Service.

In the last year we have accomplished important projects that position the Museum toward the future.

1. Completed the conceptual exhibit interpretive plan in January.
2. OZ Architects completed the design-development phase for the museum building.
3. Cataloged over 20,000 historical items to date using a museum software database.
4. Received a favorable report from independent auditors following an audit of the Museum's financial records.

Construction of the museum building will begin July 1, 2009, if sufficient donations are received. Please review the Museum's annual report. We appreciate your thoughts and comments.

Gray Reynolds
President

Mission

To preserve the history of the U. S. Forest Service and to interpret the conservation story of the last 100 years, giving due consideration to the roles and partnerships that have enriched the forest and grasslands of the United States, and to present this historical information with integrity.

MUSEUM PROGRAM

GOALS

- Encourage public awareness of the history of conservation of all state, private, and federal lands across America.
- Develop a history program and organizational headquarters and museum that can function as a focal point for Forest Service history.
- Museum exhibits and archives accessible electronically.
- Become an affiliate of the Smithsonian.
- Provide conservation education electronically and in the classroom through lesson plans and lecturers.
- Support Forest Service units and other forest history efforts nationally.

Accomplishments

Museum Site Development

Significant progress was achieved this year toward construction of a museum in Missoula, MT.

Museum Building — Architectural design has been completed through the Design & Development phase. The Museum Support Committee worked closely with Stan Zimet of OZ Architects in design the building. The building will have a 15,000 sq. ft. footprint. On the ground floor is an 8,000 sq. ft. exhibit / theater area, 3,000 sq. ft. lobby, 1,000 sq. ft. traveling exhibit space plus a small office and restrooms. The basement will house the curation center, two classrooms, library, additional offices, restrooms and storage. The building site is a 36 acre tract located adjacent to the Missoula airport and the Forest Service Smokejumpers Base.

Sewer and Water Utilities — Western Excavating Company constructed 1,400 feet of sewer and water lines to serve the museum building. Construction cost was \$403,000. The service lines are connected into the Missoula municipal systems. Work was completed December 2006.

Access Roads and Parking — Engineering design has been completed. A RV site for museum volunteers is included in the plans. Construction is planned for 2009.



Museum Building Design by OZ Architects, Missoula Montana



Museum Lobby with Timber Framing Construction



Posts for Museum lobby from Fernow Experimental Forest, West Virginia.

Timber Posts

Timber framing posts will come from National Forests, Experimental Forests, State Forests and Tree Farms. The geographically diverse species will tell the story how forests supported the development of America. Visitors will read the plaque on each post and a companion brochure.

We received commitments for the twenty-four posts needed. A northern red oak and black walnut (from a wind thrown tree) will be coming from the Fernow Experimental Forest (see photo at left). The first post arriving in Missoula was a western larch provided by the Payette National Forest in Idaho.

Conceptual Interpretive Plan Completed

We completed the *conceptual interpretive plan* in January for the indoor and outside exhibits. Split Rock Studios of Minnesota was our consultant. Planning began with a meeting in April 2007. A diverse group of twenty-six persons with backgrounds as Forest Service employees and retirees and Forest Service partners, e.g. ski area operator, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, etc. Representatives from Colorado, Montana, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Washington, DC attended.

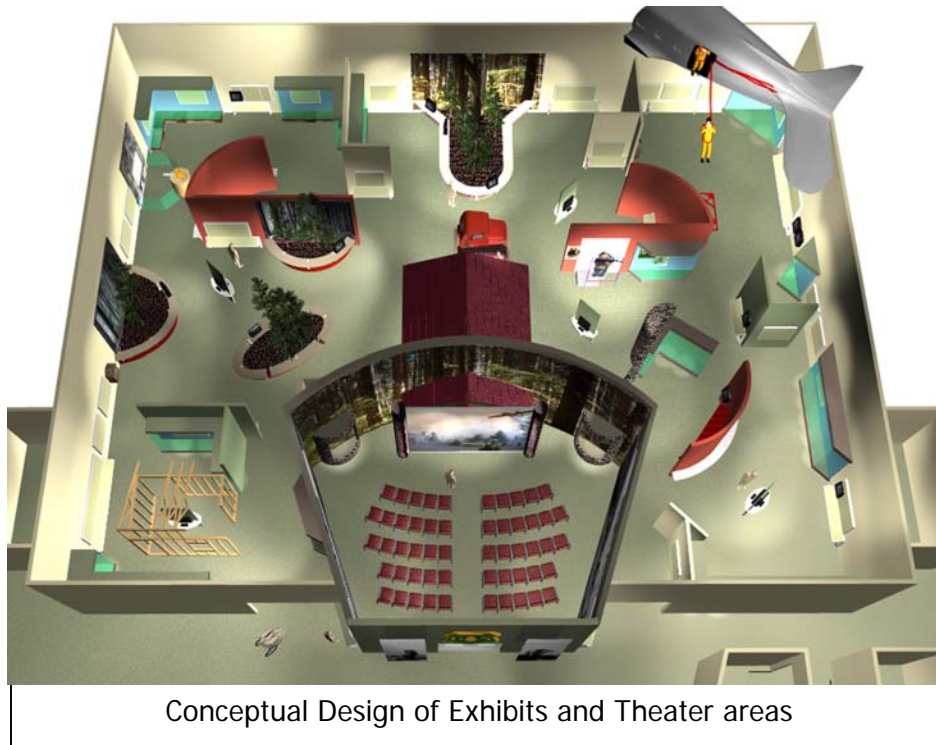
The conceptual plan identifies, interpretive goals, Themes, Sub-themes, and Storylines. Preliminary exhibit designs were developed that are interactive and will appeal to families.

The Introductory Museum Theater

The theater will present an exciting experience that will awaken visitors to the drama of the Forest Service story and the far-reaching impact of Forest Service conservation. As visitors enter the theater, they will see large photomurals on either wall picturing the devastation of the land before management. These images focus their attention on the need, and the video program provides the answer. The program is a visually exciting object theater, with multiple screens flanked by two revolving stages. In a dramatic conclusion, lights come up behind the screen and visitors will understand for the first time that the large, center screen is actually a scrim, or translucent fabric, on which the video was projected. The door of an old ranger's cabin appears, the scrim rises, and the cabin doors open. Visitors are invited to enter and begin their adventure. The video will be about 10 minutes long, for 50 people per showing.

EXHIBIT THEMES

- A. **Foundations of Forest Conservation:** 1865 – 1905.
- B. **Popular Culture:** Different means and methods used to communicate conservation issues to the public.
- C. **Wildland Fire:** includes cooperation other agencies, fire-fighting techniques, and fire sciences.
- D. **Wilderness:** Evolution of concept, 1920 to 1964 Wilderness Act and management.
- E. **Multiple Use and Managing for the Greatest Good:** Management for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife and fish, and minerals. Involvement of partners. The role of State Foresters. The role of research and technology development.
- F. **Research Science-based management:** The Forest Service and its partner's are involved in many different kinds of research.
- G. **Forest Products:** Research and development of building materials from wood.
- H. **Is There a Forest in Your Future:** Emerging stories of partnerships and research projects as they happen are displayed.
- I. **The Building:** The role of the Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory and it's partners in development of the building materials in the building.
- J. **Outdoor Exhibits:** Existing now on site: The Bungalow Ranger Station cabin will be furnished as a 1950 era Ranger's office and the L-4 Lookout constructed from original 1930s plans. Additional exhibits will be are anticipated following building construction.



Conceptual Design of Exhibits and Theater areas

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Capital Campaign target is \$10 million. The Capital Campaign Committee co-chairs are R. Max Peterson, Chief Emeritus, US Forest Service and Robert Model, Chairman of the Boone and Crockett Club.

Campaign Status:

Category	Amount
Members & Friends	\$ 371,511
Pledges, Balance	72,620
Organizations	110,500
Foundations	20,000
Government	525,000
In-Kind Gifts	27,602
Endowments	32,189
TOTAL	\$ 1,159,422

July 31, 2008

Corporate and foundation contributions have been received from:

Aero Tech, Inc
Aspen Skiing Company Family Fund
Ben Meadows Company
Big Sky Mobile Catering
Bitterroot Trails, LLC
Boone and Crockett Club
DJ&A, P.C. Consulting Engineers
Eastern Forest Service Retiree Assn
Emerald Chapter SAF
ESRI
Firewise 2000, Inc
Forest History Society
Forestry Suppliers, Inc.
George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Foundation
Mt Hood Meadows, Oreg., Ltd
National Ski Areas Assn.
National Smokejumper Assn
National Wild Turkey Federation

Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Assn
Oregon Society of American Foresters
OZ Architects
Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
Pacific Southwest FSX Club
Phos-Check
Rainier Seeds, Inc.
Raley's Forestry & Wildfire Management
Raytheon Company
Robwen, Inc.
Sierra Pacific Airlines, Inc.
Ski Apache
Snowbird Renaissance Center
Starbucks Matching Gifts Program
Stillwater Mining Company
US Forest Service
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
Western Heritage Company

Preserve Historical Objects & Documents

Curator Beth Humble, with assistance from volunteers, has carefully cataloged historic papers, books, photographs and objects given to the Museum.

The carbide lamp (right), donated by Jack Godden of Milwaukee, WI, is an example of recently donated artifacts. The lamps, customarily used by coal miners, were used by early Forest Service firefighters in the southern Appalachian Mountains.



Cataloging is current for items donated directly to the museum since the early 1990s. We have a big job ahead to catalog the large Harvey Mack Collection, Forest Service property under the Museum's care. More than 20,000 items we have cataloged to date are: Artifact Objects 3,700; Photographs 7,193, Archive Folders 3,091 and Library (published books, Research reports etc.) 6,169. Over 7,000 names of individuals are indexed with the historical records.

The Forest Service moved the repository of historical artifacts and archives on September 4, 2008 from Ft. Missoula to the Regional Field Service Facility in Missoula, Montana. The repository is temporary until the Forest Service constructs a facility that meets agency standards for storage of historic material. The Northern Region asked the Chief to approve funds in the FY 2010 budget for this building.

Beartooth Highway Exhibit

The highway was constructed in the 1930s from Red Lodge Montana to Yellowstone National Park across the Custer, Gallatin and Shoshone National Forests in Montana and Wyoming. The spectacular scenic view attracts thousands of tourists. Dale Petersen, a museum volunteer and his committee

researched and developed a 4 ft X 6 ft poster with historical information about the road and the mountainous area. The museum is offering the poster to groups and businesses along the highway in Montana and Wyoming. This effort can be a prototype of what can be done on site-specific history around the country.

F o r e s t S e r v i c e M e m o r i a l s

Honor people and groups who have contributed to the mission of the Forest Service. Preserving the history of forest and grassland conservation honors a century of work by many dedicated people and organizations. History comes alive through the experiences of people. Personal papers and biographies help tell our history.

There are now 241 persons recognized by the Forest Service History Memorial. A biographical book is available for viewing and names are listed on the Museum webpage.

M e m b e r s h i p

The Museum attended various Forest Service and Society of American Foresters conventions and training sessions to spread awareness of the Museum and its goals, plans and accomplishments. Membership brochures were provided. Members volunteered to be present to answer questions. Informational exhibits were present at Forest Service training sessions at the combined Region 8 / Region 9 in Columbus Ohio and Region 1 in Missoula, MT. At the same Columbus Ohio session was the national new employees orientation. An information display was also provided for the open house for the new Red Rocks Ranger Station, Coconino National Forest, Arizona. An exhibit booth was present at the national convention of the Society of American Foresters in Pittsburgh, PA

The Board of Directors approved a new membership plan. Major plan objectives are: increase memberships, develop relationships with other museums and organizations that are involved in forestry history activities; recognize partners / cooperators active in the development of Forest Service programs, and develop regional / state / local "Affiliates of the Museum."

Since State Foresters are critical partners, the Board of Directors approved one-year complementary memberships to allow all State Foresters to become familiar with the Museum. The Museum has requested each State Forester provide a history of their department's history for the Museum's archives.

Financial Statement

The Museum's 2007 financial records were audited by Junkermier, Clark, Campanella, Stevens, P.C., certified public accountants. Total net assets of the Museum on 12/31/2007 were \$1,130,420, an increase of \$326,656 in 2007. Copies of the auditor's report are available on request.

2007 Expenses

	Program	Management	Fundraising	Total
Salaries	26,531	5,209		31,740
Accountant Fees		5,800		5,800
Building	5,305	251		5,556
Marketing			5229	5,229
Postage, supplies	4,919	342	1842	7,103
Repairs & Mtce	1,666	366		2,032
Rent in-kind	7,872			7,872
Travel, meetings	10,235			10,235
Other Costs	9,598	2,168		11,766
Depreciation	1,333	444		1,777
Total Expenses	\$67,459	\$14,580	\$7,071	\$89,110

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

All Directors are volunteers.

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