



National Museum of Forest Service History: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the mission of the Museum? The National Museum of Forest Service History, a national nonprofit organization founded in 1988, is dedicated to preserving the history of the US Forest Service and to interpreting the conservation story, giving due consideration to the roles and partnerships that have enriched the forest and grasslands of the United States, and to preserving this historical information with integrity. The Museum will carry out its mission through the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center.

What are the plans for the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center? The Center will feature 24 tall timbers from national forests, private tree farms and a State Forest, each with a story to tell. The 30,000 square foot facility will meet national Green Building design standards, and will include an object theater, interactive and traveling exhibits, classrooms and meetings rooms, and a curatorial and collections laboratory. The grounds feature an authentic ranger cabin, a fire lookout, a trail system and a memorial grove. A Virtual Museum and Traveling Exhibit Program will extend the reach of the NMFSH's collections and education programs. The Museum will also collaborate with nationally and internationally recognized museums and universities to support public inquiry and scholarly exploration of its collections, which number 42,000 objects, documents, images and recordings.

Why is the Center in Missoula, Montana? Located between Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, Missoula attracts conservation-minded recreation tourism. The U.S. Forest Service has deep roots in Missoula dating back to 1905. The USFS Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory and the Smokejumpers are based here. Nestled within an array of spectacular national forests, national scenic and historic trails, designated wilderness areas, the area's natural beauty was the location for the movie, the "*A River Runs Through It*." From the threshold of the Center visitors will see the Bitterroot, Clearwater and Lolo National Forests and Rattlesnake National Recreation and Wilderness Area. The Boone and Crockett Club, founded by Theodore Roosevelt, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, two significant sportsmen's conservation organizations that have played a leading role in conserving and stewarding our national forests and grasslands are based in Missoula. The National Forest Foundation is also headquartered in Missoula.

What is the relationship between the Museum and the US Forest Service? The National Museum of Forest Service History is an independent 501(c)(3) organization. The U.S. Forest Service and the Museum are guided by a Memorandum of Understanding enabling cooperation between the two organizations to interpret and catalog artifacts in the collection and to partner on educational and other programs.

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