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November 7, 2011

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **ELLIE HILL, LYLE LAVERTY, JIM MARSH JOIN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FOREST SERVICE HISTORY BOARD**

MISSOULA, MT – This fall the National Museum of Forest Service History (NMFSH) welcomed Ellie Hill, Lyle Laverty and Jim Marsh to the board of directors. With their strong combination of experience in the public and nonprofit sectors, the board is well-positioned to carry out its plans for the construction of the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center in Missoula, Montana.

“These individuals are highly respected in their fields, ranging from policy to natural resource management to nonprofit management,” said Gray Reynolds, NMFSH president. “Their enthusiasm for the mission of the National Museum of Forest Service History and their outstanding professional leadership will contribute to our success in building the Center and ensuring that future generations carry on our nation’s conservation legacy.”

**Ellie Hill** is a lifelong Rocky Mountain Westerner, Montana State legislator, and sister of a Smokejumper. Most recently, Ellie served as the Executive Director of one of Western Montana’s best known and beloved nonprofit organizations, advocating for veterans issues, the homeless, and the impoverished. In November 2010, Ellie was elected from Missoula to the Montana House of Representatives and named by Time Magazine as one of the nation’s “40 Under 40 Political Rising Stars.”

**Lyle Laverty**, a natural resource consultant, Arvada, Colorado, served as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish Wildlife and Parks, under President George W. Bush. In this capacity, he had direct administrative responsibility for the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Before joining the Bush Administration, Lyle served as the Director of Colorado State Parks from 2001 to 2007. Prior to becoming Director of Colorado State Parks, Lyle served as Associate Deputy Chief of the US Forest Service, responsible for the leadership and implementation of the National Fire Plan. During his long Forest Service career, he served in many positions.

**Jim Marsh** is President of e-PEAK Inc., Dennis, Texas, a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business engaged in energy and environmental solutions for civilian and military markets. Jim provides technical and program management assistance in environmental and waste management, advanced power systems and advanced oil, gas, and oil shale programs, development of energy surety and environmental sustainability program option analysis. From 1968 to 1986 Jim was employed by the Forest Service as forest and regional hydrologist, district

ranger and staff officer on the Six Rivers National Forest. In 1986 Jim moved to the Department of Energy and then to the Department of Defense, retiring from Federal service in 2000.

The three new members join the Museum board as the site preparation, building design and exhibit planning for the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center is underway. The Center, to be built in Missoula, Montana, will provide a showcase for combined collections of more than 42,000 objects. The 30,000 square-foot conservation education center, national repository, exhibit and event space will encourage visitors to explore the history of the lands and people that have defined the nation and given meaning to the term conservation. Through its virtual museum and traveling exhibits, the Center will reach the larger public on-line and on-the-road.

“The history of the US Forest Service is the very history of conservation. We look forward to working with our newest board members to transform the stories, the research and the collections into a comprehensive Center that provides a forum for education and meaningful debate about conservation,” said Dave Stack, NMFSH vice president and executive director.

### **About the National Museum of Forest Service History**

The National Museum of Forest Service History, a national nonprofit organization founded in 1988, is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and interpreting the entire national history of the USDA Forest Service for the education and enjoyment of the general public, scholars, and historical researchers. For more information, visit [www.nmfs-history.net](http://www.nmfs-history.net)

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