



# **National Museum of Forest Service History**

A Non profit Corporation

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## **Annual Report**

### **July 1, 2006—June 30, 2007**

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. Donations passed the \$1 million mark toward our capital campaign goal of \$6 million.
2. Completed construction of the water and sewer infrastructure at the Museum site.
3. Completing a conceptual exhibit interpretive plan in September.
4. Hired OZ Architects to design the museum building.
5. Cataloged over 19,000 historical items to date using a museum software database.
6. Received a favorable report from independent auditors following an audit of the Museum's financial records.

Please review the Museum's progress report. We appreciate your thoughts and comments.

*Gray Reynolds*

## **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.
- Museum exhibits and archives accessible electronically.
- Provide conservation education electronically and in the classroom through lesson plans and lecturers.
- Provide expert services to regional and local efforts nationally.
- Collect and care for historic artifacts and archives.

## **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

During the August 2007 Board Meeting, board members had an important clarifying discussion to ensure that the institutional framework of the Museum was clearly understood and communicated appropriately. The discussion centered on the importance of continuing to focus on the cornerstone that we are truly a National Museum of Forest Service History and not just focused on developing a visitor center in Missoula, which interprets the history of the Forest Service.

Even though we have talked repeatedly over the last couple years about the value of providing a valuable interpretive opportunity at the Museum site, it is important that we understand and believe what distinguishes the Museum from another visitor center. The following are some of the obvious and in some cases subtle differences between viewing ourselves and communicating to others as a

<b>Visitor Center</b>	<b>National Museum</b>
Specialized or focused on single theme	Larger inclusive perspective
Tied to specific unique feature	More institutional in nature
Local	National
Limited national perspective	Limited local emphasis
Not necessarily a museum	Almost always has visitor focus
Typically uses replicas/illustrations	Capitalizes on actual artifacts
Limited ability to vary interpretation	Variety of interpretive themes
Limited ability to support other efforts	Major support of other efforts

In summary, we as a board of this Museum are hugely excited about the progress that we have made in the last 24 months in establishing this National Museum of Forest Service History as an institution

which will serve to protect, interpret, and manage the 100+ year history of the U.S. Forest Service for decades and decades to come. The service, which we provide in supporting education, research, and understanding of conservation in the United States and indeed the world, will have increasing value and importance in the years ahead.

As we communicate with partners, cooperators, and supporters of the Museum, it is important that we clearly describe ourselves as a museum institution and not simply a visitor center initiative. As we continue to develop our interpretive themes and displays and indeed begin design of our building on site, this institutional distinction is critically important. We are a National Museum. We will provide a source of protection, education, interpretation, management of U. S. Forest Service history in partnership with the agency and other cooperators such as the Forest History Society, which will be invaluable in the years ahead to not only the agency, but the public as well.

Our vision is to be recognized as an institution worthy of being considered an affiliate of the Smithsonian organization and hope to be so recognized as we complete our initial museum building and exhibits.

## **INTERPRETIVE GOALS**

The goals were developed by Charrette members in April 2007 and approved by the Board of Directors. The definition of an Interpretive Goal is: An intended outcome stated as an expression of what the visitor will learn, understand, experience or do. Visitors to the museum and to the Internet “virtual museum” will understand:

1. The historical and cultural context that led to the creation of the Forest Service and why it exists today.
2. The major role the Forest Service plays in managing wildfire as well as the natural role that fire plays in the ecosystem.
3. That there are many different demands placed on National Forest land and that the agency manages these demands for the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run.
4. How men and women of the Forest Service have remained hard working and dedicated even as their makeup has changed over time in response to changes in societal values and technology.
5. That the Forest Service has one of the largest research and technology organizations in the world and along with universities and private organizations provides the basis for professional management of our nation’s public and private forest and rangelands.
6. That they (the visitors) have a voice and a responsibility to let leaders know how they would like their forests to be managed now and into the future.
7. That from the beginning, the Forest Service has worked with and been assisted by many different groups and partners in fulfilling its diverse mission.
8. That the Forest Service has used many means and methods to communicate its message of resource conservation to the public. Some of these have become cultural icons. Examples are: Dixie Crusaders and the penny pines, posters, Smokey Bear, TV, movies, Ad Council, Aircraft Warning Service and environmental education.
9. Become aware that the Forest Service went through distinct eras or transformations during its first Century.

## **Accomplishments**

### **MUSEUM BUILDING**

Significant progress was achieved this year toward construction of a museum in Missoula, MT. Our goal is to open the museum to visitors late in 2009.

*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.

*Exhibit Planning* — We contracted with Split Rock Studios of St. Paul, Minnesota, to prepare a conceptual interpretive plan for museum exhibits. Contract cost was \$29,000. The museum hosted a Charrette to gather ideas on April 16 to 18, 2007 at the University of Montana's Lubrecht Experiment-



*Charrette Group at Lubrecht Forest, April 18, 2007*

tal Forest. 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 group developed interpretive goals, themes and storylines. The Board of Directors approved the Charrette report after making several changes and additions. Split Rock Studios has submitted themes and storylines, a bubble diagram and initial building design requirements. The final report will be submitted in October 2007 and will include exhibit sketches, floor plan, visitor flows and a budget to construct the exhibits.

*Museum Building Design* — The Museum hired OZ Architects of Missoula, MT to design the approximately 10,000 sq. ft. museum building. The schematic phase of the design is being donated by OZ Architects with a value over \$20,000. The architectural fees are estimated to be \$144,000 for the building. The construction plans will be completed spring of 2008. We will use the building to interpret different building materials developed by the Forest Products Laboratory. We will use small-

diameter wood products and timber framing in the building.

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The Capital Campaign target is \$6 million. The Capital Campaign Committee co-chairs are R. Max Peterson, Chief Emeritus, USDA Forest Service and Robert Model, Chairman of the Boone and Crockett Club.

Major contributions have been received from: Aspen Skiing Company Family Fund, Ben Meadows Company, Big Sky Mobile Catering, Boone and Crockett Club, George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Foundation, National Wild Turkey Foundation, Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Assn, Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, Pacific Southwest FSX Club, Phos-Chek Fire Retardants, Sierra Pacific Airlines, Inc., USDA Forest Service and Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program

<i>CATEGORY</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
Members & Friends	\$ 263,050
Pledge Balance	89,276
Organizations	102,400
Foundations	20,000
Government	525,000
In-Kind Gifts	3,400
Endowments	17,034
<b>TOTAL (8/13/07)</b>	<b>\$ 1,020,160</b>

### **Preserve Historical Objects & Documents**

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

We have cataloged almost all of the 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. The numbers of items we have cataloged to date are: Artifact Objects 3,466; Photographs 6,724, Archive Folders 2,909 and Library (published books, Research reports etc.) 5,996. A total of 19,095 items cataloged, an increase of 5,462 items in the last year.

### **Memorials**

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 235 persons recognized by the Forest Service History Memorial. A biographical book is available for viewing and names are listed on the Museum WebPages.

### **Restoration of Historic Vehicles**

A 1951 Ford, “Green Hornet”, Forest Service Fire Engine was purchased in southern California. The truck restoration is beginning in San Bernardino, California. The “Green Hornet” fire engine, first developed in the 1940s, was an important advance in fire fighting equipment. The vehicle will be available for parades and other events in southern California following restoration.

A 1938 Kenworth Remount Stock truck was received from an estate in Montana. The truck, jointly designed by Kenworth and the



1951 Ford "Green Hornet" Fire Engine

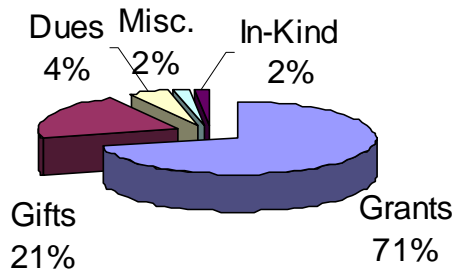
Forest Service, was used at the Ninemile Remount to transport mule pack strings to forest fires in the Northern Region. The mules were used to pack supplies to fire fighters in wilderness areas. The truck was hauled to Missoula.

### Conservation Education

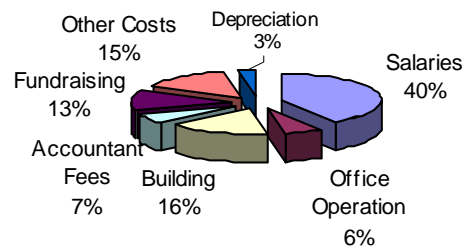
Working with the Seeley Lake Historical Museum, we completed an exhibit on the 50 Million Board Feet 1907 Big Blackfoot Milling Company timber sale at Seeley Lake, Montana. Copies of historical photographs and documents were used in the exhibit. Exhibit topics will include Jim Girard, Forest Service pioneer cruiser, Forest Service timber sale procedures, and transportation of the logs to Bonner, Montana sawmill. The Museum received a \$2,375 Montana Cultural Trust Grant in June 2006.

## Financial Statement

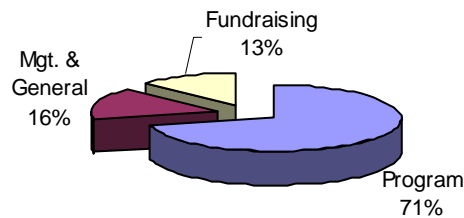
**2006 Revenues \$ 567,313**



**Expenses \$ 81,597**



**2006 Program & Management Expenses \$ 81,597**



### 2006 Net Assets

Beginning of Year	\$ 318,048
End of Year	\$ 803,764
Increase	\$ 485,716



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Certified Public Accountants and Business Advisors

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

**Board of Directors  
National Museum of Forest Service History  
Missoula, Montana**

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the National Museum of Forest Service History (a nonprofit organization), as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the National Museum of Forest Service History's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the National Museum of Forest Service History, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Junkermier, Clark, Campanella, Stevens, P.C.*

Missoula, Montana  
March 31, 2007

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