



Payette National Forest

Forest Supervisor's Notes

July 2018



Sustain Our Nation's Forests and Grasslands

2018 Wildfire Season

There are currently 3 large fires with Incident Management Teams (IMTs) assigned: Keithly fire on private and offset lands near the Weiser District, Mesa fire on private and NFS lands on the Council District, and the Rattlesnake fire on the New Meadows District, the Nez Perce NF, and private lands near Riggins. Up to date information on Payette wildfires is available on the Payette Facebook page or subscribe to the [Payette's GOV-Delivery system](#) for email updates.



Mesa fire outside of Council.

Deliver Benefits to the Public

Big Creek Lodge Re-opening

The Idaho Aviation Foundation has reopened the Big Creek Lodge on the Krassel Ranger District. The original Big Creek Lodge burned in 2008. The Foundation raised \$1.2 million dollars to rebuild the lodge, which operates under a special use permit from the Forest. More info at bigcreeklodgeidaho.com.

Apply Knowledge Globally

Social Media Connections

The Payette NF utilizes social media tools to tell our stories to the public and media year-round but during fire season the amount of information we share and our numbers of followers go up. We have over 6,500 followers on Facebook, with nearly a 1,000 new Facebook followers since the start of recent wildfires. Over 79,000 people have viewed information about the wildfires in the last week. More than 2,400 people have subscribed to get daily email update via GOV-Delivery. Follow the Payette on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Excel as a High Performing Agency

Conservation Interns

This year, the Payette NF expanded our conservation education program and built successful partnerships to allow more opportunities for individuals to obtain jobs and internships. In its third year, through a partnership with the Idaho Conservation Corps, we hired 17 conservation interns. New partnerships were created this year through Idaho colleges; two interns were hired from Treasure Valley Community College and one intern through the University of Idaho. The Payette hired an intern through the Resource Assistance Program to facilitate the Agents of Discovery program.

Youth Conservation Corps

This summer the Forest hired two Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crews, each consisting of four youth and one crew lead. One crew was stationed in Council and the other crew in McCall. Youth under the age of 18 were able to work and learn about various natural resource areas including fisheries, range, recreation, hydrology, watershed, heritage and archaeology. These programs help produce quality work that will continue to benefit the Payette greatly in the future, and also gives youth and young adults a remarkable opportunity to develop career paths into natural resource management.





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LITIGATION UPDATE

Lost Creek - Boulder Creek Landscape Restoration

The Lost Creek - Boulder Creek (LCBC) Landscape Restoration project was litigated by the Alliance for Wild Rockies, Native Ecosystem Council, and Idaho Sporting Congress in June 2015. US District Court Judge Lodge dismissed the case on August 31, 2016. Plaintiffs appealed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Status - An oral hearing was held February 5, 2018 in Seattle, and we are awaiting a decision.

Over Snow Vehicle Use Maps

Winter Wildlands and Wild Earth Guardian filed litigation in September 2017 challenging the Payette's Over Snow Vehicle Use Maps (OSVUM). The Boise and Bridger-Teton NF's were also named in the litigation.

Status - The Forest Service withdrew the Over-Snow Vehicle Use Map (OSVUM) for the Payette National Forest that was published on January 13, 2017.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

New Permanent Hires:

- NONE

Retirements

- NONE

Transfers:

- **ANNA LOWELL** - Central Zone Recreation Specialist (McCall RD) to the Colville NF

Conservation leaders of the future — the 2018 YCC crews



Council Youth Conservation Corps—L to R Larissa Hansen, Karlie Rae Hansen, Cash Rubelt, Keaton Lattimer, Lee Bingham (crew lead)



McCall Youth Conservation Corps—L to R Joe Johnson (crew lead), Jonas Bourne, Dylan Cropp, Brynne Kundrick, Lonnacie Noyes-Jeffs

