

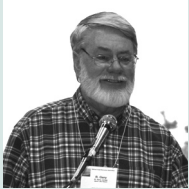


# THE NFRA REPORT

*Official Newsletter of the National Forest Recreation Association*

SEPTEMBER 2005

## President's Message



I hope everyone has had a good summer season, it seems that gas prices have not had the huge impact we feared. At least in my part of the world, and I hope in your part also.

I do want to thank our many partners who renew their memberships each year and continue to support work that NFRA does for its members. One of the important services that NFRA offers its members is staying current with new issues coming out of the Regional and National offices of the Forest Service and other agencies that affect recreation. The NFRA Board and staff keep their finger on the pulse of these issues and deal with them as they come up, and this allows you to concentrate on your business.

We also try our best to keep you informed on issues through this newsletter. I encourage you to contact myself, any Board member, or our Executive Director Marily Reese if you have any personal or local issues you think we should address.

NFRA has a large Board of Directors that spend a lot of time (and personal money) on the issues and problems of dealing with these agencies and I want to thank them for all of their efforts, in particular the Executive Committee.

Our 2006 General Membership Conference will be held this coming March 6th - 9th, 2006 at the Nugget Hotel & Casino in Reno, Nevada. I encourage all members to attend this conference for the opportunity to interact with Forest Service officials, your business peers, and to take advantage of the educational sessions that will be provided. Each year I come away from this conference with new knowledge and enthusiasm.

Also, I want to encourage all members and their staff to help support the victims of Hurricane Katrina. It is hard to imagine the devastation, loss of homes and businesses, and the loss of loved ones. It certainly makes us far more appreciative of even the simple things – like running water, a soft bed, and a warm meal.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Annual Conference in March at Reno, and I promise I will bring many photos of the three granddaughters I was blessed with in a 13 month period this past year.

Continue to have a great summer and remember NFRA is here to help you.

Sincerely,

*Gary Jones*

Gary Jones

## 'Partners in Recreation' 2005 Conference Overview

NFRA's Conference was rich with outstanding presenters and relevant topics. Highlights of the sessions were put together by various NFRA members.



## Centennial Celebration in Nation's Capitol

The National Forest Recreation Association (NFRA) was represented by several members and Board Members at the Forest Service's Centennial Congress held in Washington, DC, on January 3 – 6, 2005. The Congress – which was meant to resemble the one held 100 years before at the beginning of the Forest Service – was a very high profile event and featured dozens of outstanding speakers. A highlight of the celebrations was a panel discussion by four previous Chiefs of the Forest Service – Max Peterson, Dale Robertson, Jack Ward Thomas, and Mike Dombeck – all talking about their time in office and their visions for the future of the National Forest system.

The conference also featured the premiere of a new documentary film – The Greatest Good – on the history and future of the Forest Service. This film provides an excellent perspective on the role of the National Forests in America's future.

Participants included the grandson of Gifford Pinchot – the first Chief of the Forest Service – and dozens of other prominent Americans. Chief Dale Bosworth closed the session with a reminder that the celebrations were just beginning and that there would many more opportunities to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Forest Service in the coming year.

*Submitted By Eric Mart*

## National Forest Recreation Association Officers & Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

R. Gary Jones	President June Lake, CA
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Bob Tanner	Vice President Mammoth Lakes, CA
Eric Mart	Treasurer Pal o Alto, CA
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Chuck Shepherd	Coburg, OR
Gaylord Stavelley	Flagstaff, AZ

## Forest Service Centennial Forum in the Pacific Northwest Region

In November 2004 the Forest Service held the Centennial Forum on Recreation, Access, and Healthy Forests and Watersheds at the Skamania Lodge on the Columbia River in Stevenson, Washington.

This forum was hosted by

the Forest Service Pacific Northwest and Alaska Regions and should be a model for all future Forest Service

gatherings. There was a tremendous variety of appropriate and provocative speakers, historical entertainment, and very collaborative break out sessions of the attendees.

The basic premise of the break out discussions were "what has been done right and wrong during the first 100 years, what is our vision for the next 100 years, and how do we accomplish these visions." Of course there were many thoughts and opinions when you have 150 plus people from government, permit holders, user groups, trade and industry organizations, advocacy groups, volunteer groups, and university scholars offering input. The consensus was that the Forest Service can no longer operate in 2005, or the future, with the 1905 business plan; the world and the world's needs have changed too much. The view that came out of the forum was that the Forest Service must find a way to address the 2005 – 2105 needs in a totally different manner given the reduction in funding and the more and more diverse needs of the using public. Dave Holland, Forest Service Director of Recreation from the

Washington DC office, summed the future up with a few succinct words. "We are moving to a future of shared

governance and full participation, and we will do what we do best and we'll partner the rest." I believe that all of

us who are permit holders or concessionaires look forward to a full partnering relationship with the Forest Service.

*Submitted by Gary Jones*

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## The Greatest Good

"The Greatest Good" is a presentation of 100 years of Forest Service history covering the early formation of the Forest Service under Gifford Pinchot through recent history and philosophy. This film is well researched and beautifully illustrated with archival photos as well as current cinematography and would make a great addition to anyone's personal library. At \$31 for a 3-DVD set with many extra features, and the softcover book, *The Forest Service and the Greatest Good: A Centennial History*, by James G. Lewis, this offer is hard to beat. You can download the form and browse through the descriptions of the various centennial history products at [www.foresthistory.org/Publications/new.html](http://www.foresthistory.org/Publications/new.html). Orders over 10 qualify for a bookstore discount. You can fax an order to 919-682-2349 or call for bulk orders at 919-682-9319, ask for Steven Anderson. The complete set of DVDs and book should be ready for release in May. Our thanks go to Steve and Ann Dunsky and Dave Steinke for their hard work and success on this venture.

*Submitted by Esther Fishbaugh*

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## Insights from the Director of Recreation

Dave Holland, the Forest Service Director of Recreation, gave an informative session on the Recreation Fee legislation and the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. The Forest Service expects significant cuts in its funding over the next several years and plans savings in improved and modern business practices. Overhead costs, which used to be covered by the timber budget, have been now passed on to the recreation budget.

Dave felt it would be very helpful for the Regional Recreation Directors to sit down with the NFRA board annually to discuss issues facing recreation and collaborating on a path to the future.

Note: Since our Conference, Dave has retired from the Forest Service, and is the new Director of Parks and Recreation for San Mateo County in California. We wish Dave all the best in his new career!

*Submitted By Bob Coe*

## Special Uses Changes

Mike Heilman, Pacific Northwest Regional Special Uses Coordinator, and a special uses administrator for 28 years, presented an overview and update regarding several issues pertaining to special uses.

### Outfitter-Guides

Outfitter Guides are now eligible for 10-year permits.

Can I be converted from the one-year temporary permits to my 10-year permits? A Categorical Exclusion allows the low-level NEPA be performed and should be able to convert to a 10-year term, as long as scope of operation has not significantly changed.

The Forest Service Handbook and Outfitter-Guide Permits are in the process of being updated to reflect the new term. The minimum fee now is \$90.

### Cost Recovery

The Forest Service has long had the authority to collect the costs for processing and renewing authorizations and have never implemented it. This is about to happen. The proposal is that the first 50 hours would not have a charge. At "hour 51" actual costs will begin to accrue. BLM regulations should be out soon and the USFS will "mirror" their policies.

Where prospectuses and responses are being processed, this does not apply. This is because the Forest Service is asking interested bidders to respond.

For renewals, the cost will in most cases, be zero. If there is major reconstruction in the renewal being planned, the costs might be prohibitive.

Conclusion: Mike Heilman is advising his personnel that the Forest Service is not going to recover all their costs in many cases. They should not be striving to do this. Example: If the Forest Service is renewing the permit, analyze the benefits to the permittee. The Forest Service will go through a lot of training and make sure the policy is applied as equitably as possible.

### New Permits

There are some "moratoriums" placed on some of the forests where they are instructed not to issue new permits, but to administrate and renew the ones they have.

### Audit

There is an OIG (Office of Inspector General) coming up. Mike welcomes it. Feels this will expedite process towards operating efficiencies in permit administration.

### Special Uses Competency

There are several cases where Forest Service personnel only spend 5% of their time in special uses. It's difficult to build up a personal relationship and skill in the job when this is true.

*Submitted by Bud Kahn*

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## Outdoor Recreation Employees in a New Era

Dr. Bill Hendricks, Ph.D. Professor of Recreation at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, led a very informative and humorous session on the new young workforce. 'Millennials' have birthdates between 1980 and 2003 and really have a different way of dealing with employment issues. They are unique in they are not TV oriented as much as Internet oriented; and if they can't 'Google' it, it doesn't exist. Clear expectations, ongoing feedback, frequent salary increases, flexible schedules, and cell phones in the workplace (gotta keep up with the buzz), are but a few of the expectations you can prepare to deal with at work. These are 'trophy' children - protected and kept at home out of harms way. Dr. Hendricks also relayed statistics about the lower numbers of students interested in government careers in parks and recreation management. More students are interested in 'event planning' and working for private companies and corporations.

Copies of Dr. Hendricks' PowerPoint presentation are available to NFRA members.

*Submitted By Bob Coe*

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## Active Outdoor Participants - Who, What, Where are They?

Michelle Barnes is Vice President for Marketing with the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA), a premier trade organization serving the \$20 Billion Outdoor Industry. At OIA, Barnes heads up initiatives to support the more than 4000 manufacturers, retailers and service providers through cutting edge research, communications, events and public policy to ensure growth and success of the industry.

According to Michelle, the gateway activities to the out of doors are hiking, biking, camping and paddling. Participants are introduced into the out of doors by their parents, friends, or by groups such as the Boy Scouts or church groups. Only 19% of those surveyed are not interested in an outdoor activity which leaves a potential market of 81%. Newcomers to the outdoors are most likely to be interested in trying the gateway activity in which they experienced their start. Women continue to be the big influence on family activities and spending. Women make the majority of family vacation decisions. Attract the Mom and you have the family! 34% of women report being inexperienced outdoor recreationists with most feeling they never had an outdoors mentor. Seems there are some good marketing opportunities here. The Forest Service has leadership opportunities to mentor and communicate to all Americans on the where, why, and how of outdoor recreation.

*Submitted by Jerry Hamby*

## Recreation in America Today

Derrick Crandall is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Recreation Coalition since 1981. He also serves on the Recreation Roundtable, the National Recreation Lakes Coalition, the Scenic Byways Coalition and the Coalition for Recreational Trails as well as treasurer of the American League of Anglers and Boaters. Derrick has been instrumental in pushing forward the Take Pride in America volunteer program and was appointed to serve as a Founding Director of the National Forest Foundation. He is well qualified to give an overview of the state of recreation in America today.

Derrick emphasized the need for government agencies and recreational providers to work together each concentrating on their area of special expertise. Money for improvements in America's recreational infrastructure is out there, getting it will need creativity. The US Congress has passed their new highway bill which will make \$6 billion available for Scenic Byways, boat ramps and \$110 million per year for trails work for the next 6 years. Other dollars could come from the \$140 billion for health programs through the states and federal budget to fight obesity. Recreation policy legislation is needed to codify Forest Service directives to make recreation part of the Healthy US goals. New technology and new partnerships should be researched to bring more leverage to current funding and personnel levels. Take Pride in America has produced a 14% increase in volunteerism in the National Parks alone; the Forest Service is now planning how to better utilize these volunteers in the National Forests as well. Derrick closed by emphasizing the reality that recreation will become increasingly more important to state and federal agencies as well as to the American public; we need to be ready to lead the way.

*Submitted by Esther Fishbaugh*

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## California: Restoring the Luster & New Opportunities for Public/Private Partnerships

John Koeberer has spent 38 years in the hospitality industry and is currently CEO and President of The California Parks Companies. These business entities are involved in managing recreational enterprises statewide for public agencies, utility districts and non-profit organizations. John was the 2001 recipient of the Norman P. Clark California Tourism Entrepreneur of the year Award and was inducted into the California Tourism Hall of Fame in 1999.

Mr. Koeberer listed many factors affecting the decline in business opportunity and profitability in California over the last decade and a half. While the recession in the tech industries and the loss of value in the NASDAQ were largely beyond the control of business, the explosive growth in government and government subsidies was not. Only now are business leaders and civic leaders seeing the need to reform government to make it more responsible to living within reasonable limits. Pensions are too generous to sustain, worker's comp is too broad, and up to 40% of all Californians receive some kind of government subsidy. The resulting increase in tax burden has made recreation a marginal industry with no perks for employees and little profit for employers.

To combat these trends, Mr. Koeberer advocates joining your local Chamber of Commerce, tracking legislation in the state, supporting redistricting reform and pension reform as well as supporting reforms in education to emphasize values, morals, work ethics and civics.

*Submitted by Esther Fishbaugh*

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## The Changing Scene in labor Law - What You Need to Know

Julianne Broyles is the director of the Employee Relations and Small Business section of the California Chamber of Commerce. She has worked closely with California legislators and the governor's office to promote legislation that will bring balance back to California labor laws.

Intense debates on employee/employer relationships are ongoing between the California Governor's office and the California state legislature. The apparent feud involves laws overly favorable to individual employees and very unfavorable to employers; the current business is so unbalanced that it is causing employers to leave the state or drop consideration of California as a state in which to do business.

Some examples:

- Recently an apparent advocate for people with special needs measured a handicapped parking space that was ½" too narrow, according to regulations. According to California law, the fine is over \$1,000/day from the date of discovery, payable to the "injured party." Instead of informing the winery of this situation immediately, they let the fines accrue for over a year and as a result, drove the winery out of business.
- A law was passed allowing employees to claim they are oversensitive to excessive heat in the workplace. Julie stated these employees are entitled to compensation and time off.
- There is a law being proposed to not only allow parents but also extended family "maternity and paternity" leave. In other words, you would be allowed leave when your granddaughter is born.

Conclusion:

Business people need to be following the legislative issues closely and become active in voicing their concerns. Join local Chambers of Commerce to support lobbying efforts on behalf of business in the state to promote a balance between employers and employees before the State of California becomes an unbearable environment for businesses.

*Submitted By Bud Kahn*

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## Workers Compensation - The Current Market and Changes Ahead

Charles Bacchi is a legislative advocate for the California Chamber of Commerce whose membership currently exceeds 16,000 businesses. Mr. Bacchi specializes in workers' compensation issues and was a key participant in the recently passed workers' compensation reform package.

Mr. Bacchi briefly outlined the current cost of workers' compensation insurance at a national high of \$6.39/\$100 of wage average while the rest of the nation is usually under \$4/\$100 of wages. The last round of workers' compensation reform has dropped the California average to \$5.34/\$100, and the second part of this reform took affect in January 2005 with its impact yet to be felt. Because of these reforms, new insurance companies are looking in to doing Workers' Compensation coverage in California. However, attention needs to be given to who will direct the Department of Workers' Compensation which is before the Senate currently; California businesses need to lobby for a business friendly choice.

*Submitted by Esther Fishbaugh*

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## Customer Relations Marketing

John Poimiroo made a presentation on Mass, Target, and Global Marketing. One of his key questions was to find out AWhat=s inside your head?@ meaning, of course, your consumer=s head. What=s does your customer REALLY want? Use as many different ways as you can to find out the true answer to this question. Use various types of feedback: personal contact, written evaluations, mixing and mingling with your guests, and telephone contacts after their visit.

Building a Abrand loyalty@ to your campground, pack station, or resort is very important. Use your logo, special contacts with customers thru email, web site, and mailings. He says 'graphics build loyalty' along with the customer's experience with you. What you want to do is build your base of returning customers. It takes 5 times more work to attract a new customer as it does to retain an old one. Your old customers will refer new ones and it goes round and round. Returning customers are more willing to pay higher prices because they know the value they will be receiving. Do value pricing. Make sure there is Avalue for the buck@.

Reward your existing customers! Put an emphasis on loyalty not on profit - and profit will come. You will build a Acore group of customers@ and they will support you. Remember to reward the loyalty of your existing customer. John suggests trying to find something to recognize returning customers. Often you can give coupons, or experiences for low cost items and they will be greatly appreciated by your returning customer.

Communicate Awhat you are@ in your advertising - Advertising needs to not only attract the new customer, but also be a reminder to a past customer. Focus on enduring profitable growth by building Abonding@, loyal customers, and this will build a loop to bring in the business you need for profitability.

*Submitted By Virginia C. Barnes, Ed.D.*

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## Buying for the Resort Retail Gift Shop

Bob Coe runs the Pahaska Tepee Resort outside of Yellowstone National Park, near Cody, Wyoming, which has a very successful gift shop operation. Bob gave an outstanding presentation on gift shop buying, selling, marking up, displaying and inventory control.

One should attend a reputable gift show like Denver, Colorado or Gatlinburg, Tennessee. When at the show, try to speak with one of the senior sellers and try not to deal with part time employees just helping with the show. If you are fortunate to have a friendly competitor, take them with you to the show to help make choices and teach you the finer points of buying. Jewelry is especially difficult to purchase. After giving the seller a brief overview of your store, ask him what are his best sellers.

Bob literally gave a hundred or more tips an all facets of gift shop merchandising that work for him. This session should be required for every business owner who retails. Plan to attend next year's NFRA Convention to pick up on these ideas and tips that will make your retail operation more successful.

*Submitted By Jerry Hamby*

## Working effectively with the Forest Service for the next 100 years.

### Panelists:

Gail Vanderbie, Assistant Director of Recreation, Forest Service

Bob Kates, Recreation Special Uses Program Manager, Pacific Southwest Region, FS

John Poimiroo, Agency Principal, Poimiroo & Partners

The Forest Service participants on the panel stressed the need for the Forest Service to be aware of the needs of the concessionaire and help them become profitable for long term stability. Much of the conversation stressed the need for the Forest Service and the concessionaires to work together as partners. When it was expressed from the floor that often concessionaires are treated like low level employees and that many of the Forest Service employees resent the thought of concessionaires making a profit, Gail admitted that there was work to be done getting the partnership attitude out into the field. However, Gail emphasized that "If you fail – we fail". She went on to say that it was a real mistake for the Forest Service to try to micromanage the concessionaires business practices.

There was some talk that the probable future in recreation will be longer contracts with more investment from the concessionaires.

*Submitted By Chuck Shepard*

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## Managing the Granger-Thye Fee Offset Program

May Ferguson, previously an External Auditor for the Forest Service, discussed the rationale and methodology for establishing the Indirect Cost component, or concessionaire "overhead rate" for Granger-Thye expense reimbursement.

May handed out a 2002 Memo that provides instructions on how to establish this rate. Basically, the concessionaire is to provide their regional accounting representative with important financial information by filling out various forms. The accountant then considers this information, and provides the concessionaire with an authorization letter, valid for two years, that advises all the concessionaire's permit administrators the rate to allow the permittee to recover.

During the question and answer session, it was brought up that not all permit administrators are aware of this process, and general policies and procedures regarding the application of GT project administration are very inconsistent.

NFRA is very appreciative of all of the work that May put forth regarding the GT 'indirect cost' applicability. May has since left the Forest Service, opting not to relocate to Albuquerque. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

*Submitted By Bud Kahn*

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## SERVICE CONTRACT ACT

A prospectus issued earlier this year, soliciting offers to operate Forest Service campgrounds on the Lassen National Forest, threatened to raise the issue of the applicability of the Service Contract Act (SCA), which would require payment of prevailing wages to private sector employees. The SCA is intended to apply to procurement-type contracts where the government obtains goods or services for itself, not to situations where the government contracts with private sector businesses to operate the government campgrounds for the benefit of the public. A Department of Labor ruling in 1999 extended an exemption from the SCA to concessionaires under the following practices:

1. Under most circumstances, only revenue-generating sites or facilities may be included in the permitted operations;
2. Government oversight of the permitted operations must emphasize results, rather than specify how results are to be achieved; and
3. Agreements for Granger-Thye fee offset work involving construction and reconstruction must include Davis-Bacon Wage Act provisions.

The Lassen National Forest had issued a prospectus that included non-fee areas as required areas in the permit. NFRA objected to these terms in the permit as violating the Department of Labor's ruling. A letter was sent outlining six areas of concern with request for relief in a modified prospectus. Inconsistent application of the current ruling has the danger of drawing all lodges, outfitters and concessioners into a labor law that would require prevailing wages be paid to all employees. NFRA continues to work with the Washington Office to see that new prospectuses meet the guidelines issued by the DOL regarding the Service Contract Act.

*Submitted by Gaylord Staveley*

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## National Recreation Reservation System Update

Martha Ketelle, from the Recreation Staff in the Forest Service's Washington DC Office, gave an update on the awarding of the new reservation contract. In August of 2004 the contract was awarded to Reserve America, however, a protest filed was determined to be valid and the participants were asked to rebid. The second round of bids was reviewed after determining that more information was needed for accurate and fair bids to be made. The decision on the new reservation company was announced on June 16th, with the award made to ReserveAmerica. Another protest has been filed, and it will be reviewed by the General Accounting Office (GAO) with a decision expected to be issued in October, 2005. The implementation has been delayed until the spring or possibly the fall of 2006. Forest Service campgrounds will continue with ReserveAmerica for the time being as the current contract is good for 2 years. Currently the plan is to continue with the separate reservation fee with Forest Service campgrounds rather than incorporating the reservation fee into the overnight fee as is done in the National Parks and at hotels and motels.

*Submitted by Chuck Shepherd*

## HIGH SIERRA HIKERS ASSOCIATION et al vs. THE FOREST SERVICE

In 2000, The High Sierra Hikers, along with organizations known as "Forest Service Employees For Environmental Ethics", and "Wilderness Watch", brought suit in the U.S. District Court complaining that the Forest Service had renewed pre-existing levels of pack trip outfitter use without properly completing the NEPA process, and had violated the Wilderness Act. NFRA was granted status as Defendant Intervener. The District Court awarded Summary Judgments in favor of the Forest Service on High Sierra's Wilderness Act claims and in favor of High Sierra Hikers, et al on their NEPA claim. Consequently it ordered injunctive relief in the form of reduced commercial pack trip group size until an Environmental Impact Statement that included the level and patterns of commercial use had been addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Forest Service then imposed trailhead quotas for commercial operators, limited pack stock to approved trails only (no cross-country travel) established elevational fire restrictions, and new back country grazing standards. They also cross-appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court the issue of the District Court's requirement for a Cumulative Effects Analysis on the outfitter renewal.

Arguments were heard on May 12, 2003. On August 25, 2004 the Ninth Circuit Court filed a Judgment reversing the District Court and holding that the Forest Service had failed to determine the extent to which pack stock are necessary to protect and preserve wilderness areas from degradation and that, by reauthorizing existing levels of use, the Forest Service had elevated recreational use over long-term preservation of the wilderness character, and had not lowered the allowed usage to protect areas documented as suffering from overuse. The Circuit Court remanded to the District Court, for them to determine "appropriate relief under the Wilderness Act for remediation of any degradation that has already occurred."

Plaintiffs then tried to get the lower court to further curtail commercial packer-outfitter use while the NEPA process was being carried out, and wanted a 60-day discovery of the Forest Service and a trial in the fall of 2005. In a hearing on February 25th, 2005, the Forest Service and NFRA argued that no further remedial action should be taken, that there was no need for a costly and time-consuming discovery and trial, and that the Forest Service should be allowed to continue working on their Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which would include examination of pack trip use of the wilderness.

On March 29, 2005, the Forest Service issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Trail and Commercial Pack Stock Management in the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses. NFRA worked with the commercial pack stations to develop input and comments which were submitted during the formal comment period. The Final EIS is due out sometime this fall, with a completion date targeted for December 2005.

Once this EIS is completed, the Forest Service will immediately begin another EIS for the actual permit renewal process for the facilities and non-wilderness use. This has been a very long and drawn out process, as the Wilderness Management Plan process for these wilderness areas actually began in the 1990's. NFRA has been involved all along, and continues to support its packer members. It is estimated that the Forest Service has spent over \$11 million on the litigation and environmental requirements.

*Submitted by Gaylord Staveley*

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## News from 'Friends of Forest Recreation Association'

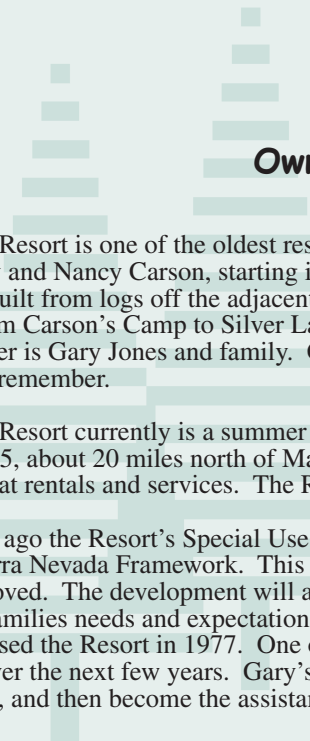
Friends of Forest Recreation Association - FOFRA - is a sub group of the National Forest Recreation Association. FOFRA represents an opportunity for individuals interested in the outdoors to encourage responsible use of the National Forests. Presently, NFRA members are actively serving many millions of people each year who are visiting campgrounds, resorts, marinas, trails, etc, and it is reasonable that they have a responsible voice to articulate their outdoor recreational concerns.

Be sure and let FOFRA hear from you and wear your gold tree pin with pride knowing that you have demonstrated your commitment to caring for the outdoors. You will receive our newsletter and periodic e-mail of information throughout the year. Let it be known that you are an individual caretaker of the national forests.

To Join FORA, just send your \$20.00 today to:

FOFRA  
2901 Cherry Ave.  
Signal Hill, CA 90755

*Submitted By Dick Kemp*



**Permittee Profile**  
**Silver Lake Resort**  
**Inyo National Forest**  
**Owned by Gary Jones and Family**

Silver Lake Resort is one of the oldest resorts on Forest Service lands in the Eastern Sierra of California. The resort was built by Roy and Nancy Carson, starting in 1916 and was known as Carson's Camp. Over the years cabins and a general store were built from logs off the adjacent mountain slopes. The Carson's sold the Resort in 1940 and the name was changed from Carson's Camp to Silver Lake Resort. From that date to the present, there have been three owners and the current owner is Gary Jones and family. Gary is the current president of NFRA and has been a NFRA board member longer than he can remember.

Silver Lake Resort currently is a summer resort operating on the Inyo National Forest on the June Lake Loop, off of Highway 395, about 20 miles north of Mammoth Lakes. The Resort has housekeeping cabins, an RV park, general store, a café, and boat rentals and services. The Resort serves approximately 50,000 guests and visitors during the summer season.

A few years ago the Resort's Special Use Permit was renewed along with a major development plan, one of the first under the new Sierra Nevada Framework. This development plan took many years to formulate, to be reviewed and reviewed, and finally approved. The development will allow a classic old "fish camp" resort to be upgraded and expanded to meet today's recreating families needs and expectations, without losing that old "fish camp" feeling. Gary and his wife, Tina, and young boys purchased the Resort in 1977. One of his sons and family joined the business this past year and will take over the operation over the next few years. Gary's plans are to build out the development plan, have his kids take over the operation of the resort, and then become the assistant dock boy at the marina.

*Address Correction Requested*

P.O. Box 488  
Woodlake, CA 93286  
(559) 564-2365  
www.nfra.org

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