



Newsletter

July 2009

Intermountain

Society of American Foresters



**Editors Comments and Disclaimers**

This newsletter is our first sent by e-mail to members with e-mail addresses. For those without e-mail addresses you'll receive by surface mail. This conserves resources and IMSAF operating budgets. Our next Newsletter deadline for submitting articles is **September 15**. I will edit for brevity and clarity and take responsibilities for them. Contact me with your concerns, corrections and (better yet) news you wish us to cover. My contact information is:

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Thank You, *Darrel L. Kenops*

**BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK FIGHTS FIRE WITH FIRE**



*This prescribed burn in Bryce Canyon National Park will increase visitor safety and improve forest health. NPS Photo*



What do you do about the safety of half a million visitors who drive the 14 mile road into Bryce Canyon National Park, a road with one way in and one way out, just upslope from several thousand acres of dead trees and overgrown forest? If you are the forward-thinking management of Bryce Canyon, you close the road for a few days after the monsoon rains, but before the winter snows, and burn the whole thing with a helicopter and 45 seasoned fire personnel.

The worry about the potential catastrophe of having visitors trapped in a wildfire situation, combined with a desire to return fire to the ecology of the mixed conifer and ponderosa forests of Bryce motivated the park managers' decision. The prescribed fire was done in conjunction with the adjacent Dixie National Forest. When Bruce Fields, Fuels Management Specialist for Bryce Canyon National Park., started his job in 2003, the park had already started building fireline by hand along the proposed lower boundary of the fire. The upper boundary was to be the paved road through the park. When Fields stepped into the fray the park had already spent a quarter of a million dollars on the project, and he could see it was going to be important to partner with the Dixie National Forest to get it done.

After lots of leg work and paper work, including NEPA analysis by both parties, smoke mitigation plans, and weather monitoring plans, they had the go-ahead to proceed. The National Forest started the process by conducting a 250 acre timber sale on their side of the fence to reduce fuel loading on that portion of the burn, and to utilize some of the trees on the site. The administration of the park and the forest spent a fair bit of energy on communicating with the local communities about the project before lighting the match. One of the concerns repeatedly expressed by community leaders was that the park was not going to harvest any of the timber prior to the burn. Park Superintendent Eddie Lopez said that he had to stress with them that the park has a different mission than the Forest Service, and that timber harvesting is not part of that mission. County Commissioners also voiced their concern that the project not begin during Labor Day weekend, so the project was scheduled for the first opportunity after the holiday.

On September 8, 2008 they started burning with hand-held torches, called drip torches, just below the road along the entire width of the burn. This created a large 'black line,' or area that has already been burned, giving them an extra margin of safety before the helicopter started dropping fire. The helicopter was equipped with a 'ping-pong machine' which dropped ping-pong sized balls injected with a chemical mix that causes them to ignite a minute or so after they land. A fire professional rode aboard the helicopter, controlling the amount of fire the helicopter applied.

In the end the whole process took about a week and treated approximately 3,000 acres of the 4,000 acre project area. Today there is a mosaic of forest conditions in the burned area. Some areas burned pretty hot, killing trees, but many areas burned with much less intensity, leaving most of the trees alive, but removing downed material and underbrush. This will allow for more sunlight on the forest floor, promoting the regeneration of desirable species such as ponderosa pine and quaking aspen. Fortunately, these agency personnel demonstrated fortitude to go ahead and light this fire under the relatively desirable conditions of early September, as opposed to trying to fight a wildfire under more severe fire weather conditions during the heat of July.

*--by Darren McAvoy, Utah Chapter Chair--*



*This photo shows the part of the fire that burned the hottest.*

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**FORESTRY STUDENTS** we invite you to share your summer forestry related job experiences with us. Send in your stories and IMSAF will include them in future IMSA newsletters. To our SAF Student Chapter Colleagues send us your Chapter news and articles. We wish you a great 2009 summer and also support and encourage again your sterling success at SAF 2008 Quiz Bowl competition!

--IMSAF Editor--

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### **SAF SNAKE RIVER CHAPTER MONTHLY BREAKFASTS ANNOUNCED!**

Thanks to the organizing talents and energy of Rick Tholen, the Snake River Chapter is re-establishing monthly SAF breakfast meetings in Boise, Idaho. Starting July 14th local and in area SAF members will gather at 6:30 am at Elmer's on Capitol Blvd, near the "Depot". Mark on your calendars the remaining dates of August 11th, September 8th, October 13, November 10th and December 8th. For SAF members who are in Idaho on business or otherwise please join us to discuss the issues, events and activities in which we are involved. See you at Elmer's!

--contributed by Rick Tholen, Snake River Chapter Education and Program Chair--



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## **YOUNGSTER-TAKE A OHV SAFETY COURSE BEFORE GOING OFF HIGHWAY!**

In a Idaho Statesman July 2nd Readers View Column Intermountain Regional Forester Harv Forsgren and Northern Region Acting Regional Forester Jane Cattel Henifen state their deep concerns about children and family's safety when operating off road vehicles on the National Forests, especially in Idaho.

They stated that "Idaho 2009 legislature passed a law that includes a provision removing the requirement for individuals to have a drivers license to operate off-highway vehicles (OHV) on National System Roads." They added mixing cars, recreational vehicles and commercial traffic on forest roads with children and young adults who are untrained or uneducated in the rules of the road on basic operation of their vehicle is a recipe for tragedy." The basis for their observation comes from field experience and American Academy of Pediatrics studies and reports.

"We know many people and families enjoy the National Forests together and want their outdoor experience to be free of conflict" they stated. The State of Idaho already requires completion of a safety education of safety education courses for hunters and archers." "We believe requiring a similar course for operators of OHV's on public roads is a very reasonable pre-requisite given the considerable safety issues." They concluded " we are working collaboratively towards a solution to this situation and the upcoming 2010 Idaho legislature."

--contributed by Idaho Statesman--

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## **FOREST SERVICE DISAGREES WITH STUDY ON THINNING!**

U.S. National Fire Director Tom Harbour said "by our count 43% of the 10.8 million acres treated by federal agencies in recent years was in and around communities threatened by fire". "That compares to 11% of the 7.4 million acres in a study based on federal databases published earlier in the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences." Congress called for 50% (of fire prone fuels near communities) to be treated in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2002."

"The Forest Service will still fight all person caused fires but Incident Commanders now have greater latitude to let portions of some naturally ignited fires burn if they are judged to likely benefit the forests which evolved with fire and do not threaten homes on private forest lands" Harbour added.

--contributed by Jeff Barnard-AP Environmental Reporter & Smallwood News--

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## **OH CANADA – IT'S IN CANADA'S FOREST INDUSTRY FUTURE, WHAT ABOUT THE USA'S?**

"Nano crystalline cellulose (NCC) has yet to reach the marketplace." "Potential future uses-from lipstick to SUV's due to NCC's properties such as strength, biodegradability and ability to tune colors without dye." "We are witnessing the forestry equivalent of going from analogue to digital, said Annette Trimbee, Deputy Minister of Alberta Advanced Education and Technology (AAET)." AAET is spending \$9 million over 3 years to set up a bio-materials development center to develop bio-products.

"Imagine a bio reactor that produces clean energy using a nano crystalline cellulose membrane." "Within 2 years the first commercial uses will likely be films, paints& finishes stated Jim Dangerfield, Executive VP, FPInnovations, a research cooperative for Canada's forest industry.

He said "using NCC will results in hardwood floors which last twice as long." He added " NCC



potentials could include advanced building products, recyclable components for vehicles, coatings, filler for paper making, bio-plastics, fiber reinforced composites, bio materials for repairing bones, pigments for cosmetics and membranes which conduct electricity." He forecasts a time where you will pull NCC's from the normal pulping process and this product is 10 to 15 times more value than the price of pulp."

In the USA the "21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act of 2003 lays the framework for such advancement in our country. Check out the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Products Lab website and technology details in the Areas of Focus section. Click on Nano Technology and/or Forest Bio-refinery and Biomass Utilization to learn about USA research and development activities. The Lab's mission is "to promote healthy forests and forest based economics through efficient and, sustainable use of our wood resources" Exciting times are underway and the future is filled with possibilities.

--contributed by Edmonton Journal and Smallwood News and your Editor--

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## **BIOMASS, BUILDING AND GREEN ENERGY FACILITIES-WHAT ARE WE DOING?**

B.C. Ministry of Forests has replaced their Katamalk Research Station natural gas heating system with a wood pellet boiler/solar panel combination. So far the research stations \$1,300 monthly gas bill has been reduced to a paltry \$175."

Intermountain SAF and Snake River SAF Chapter will be cooperating with Inland Empire and Montana SAF this fall in an biomass energy SAF outreach education project. One of the three planned meetings will happen this fall in Boise, Idaho. A specific date has not been set. In any case please share your forest related green energy stories, accomplishments with us so we can provide some insight to SAF members of what is happening in the IMSAF area. Thanks!!!

--contributed by Smallwood News and your Editor--

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## **Get a FREE Convention T-Shirt When You Register for the 2009 SAF National Convention by July 31**

**Attend the SAF Convention at Walt Disney World® Coronado Springs Resort September 30-October 4, 2009**

Join more than 1,500 forestry and natural resource professionals to exchange ideas, share professional expertise, and learn the latest technology. Take away tangible skills from sessions on:

- Urban and Community Forestry
- Renewable Bioenergy
- Recreation and Tourism
- Longleaf Pine
- Invasive Species Management
- Biology
- Fire Management
- Certification
- And many others





Build your skills at the more than 200 sessions and earn up to 31 CFE credit hours. The exhibit floor is almost sold out and many of the special events have limited capacity -- so early registration is highly recommended. Discounted rooms at the convention resort are also going quickly.

Register now at [www.safconvention.org](http://www.safconvention.org) to take advantage of early bird rates and select your t-shirt size -- a \$20 value.

Remaining <b>CY 2009 MEETING SCHEDULE</b>		
Second Tuesday of each Month	Snake River Chapter Breakfast Meetings @ Elmer's Restaurant 1385 S. Capitol Blvd.	Boise, Idaho 6:30am
Friday, August 28 - Saturday, August 29	Great Basin Fire History / Site visit to Juniper Pellet and Ely Elementary School Fuels for Schools Program	Baker and Ely, Nevada
TBA: September	Evening meeting in association with USFS Regional Leadership Team Meetings	Ogden, Utah
Wednesday, September 30 - Sunday, October 4	2009 SAF National Convention Opportunities in a Forested World	Orlando, Florida
TBA: Summer 2010	Field Tour of the Henry Mountains Site visit: McMillan Springs Biomass Stewardship (a national economic stimulus project)	Hanksville or Torrey, Utah

See the Meetings page on our webpage for additional details: <http://www.usu.edu/saf>

**Intermountain Society Officers for 2009**

Chair (2009-10)	John Shaw
Past Chair	Tim Beaty
Chair Elect (Chair in 2011-12)	vacant
Policy Chair	Lynn Sprague
Secretary Treasurer	John Roberts
CFE Contact	Fred Baker
Meetings/Program Chair	vacant
Awards Chair	Jim Rosetti
Membership Chair	Rod Brevig
Science Chair	James N. Long
Communications Chair / Web Manager	Doug Page
Newsletter Editor	Darrel Kenops
<b>Snake River Chapter Officers</b>	
Chair (acting)	John Roberts
Immediate Past Chair	Walt Rogers
Secretary / Treasurer	Myron Hotinger
Program / Education Chair	Rick Tholen
<b>Nevada Chapter Officers</b>	
Chair	Roland Shaw
Secretary/Treasurer	Norm (Skip) Ritter
<b>Utah Chapter Officers</b>	
Chair (2008-09)	Darren McAvoy
Chair Elect (Chair 2010-11)	Walt Rogers
Immediate Past Chair	John Shaw
Meetings/Program Chair	Frank Roth
Secretary-Treasurer / Membership Chair	Jim Matson
Science / Technology Chair	Terry Sharik
<b>Utah State University Student Officers</b>	
Faculty Representative	Fred Baker
<b>University of Nevada - Reno Student Officers</b>	
Faculty Representative	Roger Walker
<b>District IV Council Representative</b>	Lynn Sprague

**Are you interested in serving as one of the Intermountain Society officers?**

If so, please contact one of our Chairs:

John Shaw, John Roberts, Roland Shaw, or Darren McAvoy.