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chequamegon bay

Chequamegon National Forest

FOREST SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE September, 1982

The Forest Supervisor on "SAFETY COMMITMENT" - - -

Have you read the Chief's personal message to you in the Health and Safety Code Handbook?

What the Chief says in part is . . . rules, regulations, and guides will go just so far toward preventing injuries, illnesses, and property damage. The big gain in safety and health must come from how we feel personally about stopping them.

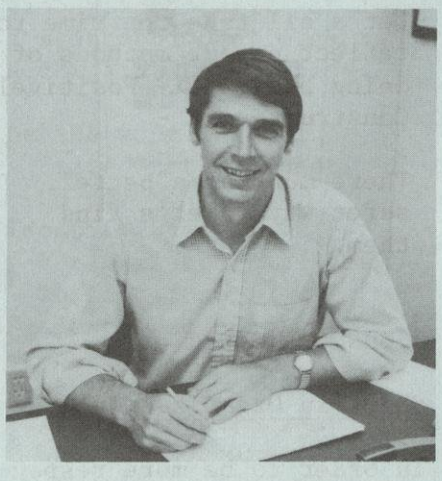
The "commitment" we must all make as employees starts with management. As managers we all have a legal and moral responsibility for safety. But, make no mistake about it, this "commitment" is shared by all of us, first-line supervisors and employees alike.

Good management methods and safe management methods are the same thing, i.e., good management methods are ways of attaining goals and safe management methods are also ways of attaining goals. It follows then that all of us can use good management methods to improve our skills while reducing accidents.

At the same time, accidents are a harsh and certain test of management systems.

Budgeting Model, we can better see the close relationship between Planning and Budgeting that needs to exist. We welcome the B&F section into PP&B.

Dombeck Reports to the SO



Natural reproduction of muskies has declined in recent years. Mike Dombeck is trying to find out why.

Mike is a fisheries biologist on the Regional Office Staff who has been stationed in the Chequamegon since last May. A large part of his time is spent in the field taking sediment and water samples.The samples will help him determine exactly what kind of habitat is required for muskies to spawn and reproduce successfully. So far, Mike's field work has been primarily on the Chequamegon, but next year it will include other National Forests in the Lakes States. The project is being carried out jointly between the Forest Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Mike is originally from the Hayward area. He has a Bachelor's degree in biology from UW-Stevens Point, a Master's degree in zoology from the University of Minnesota, and he is currently a Ph.D. Candidate at Iowa State. He started working for the Forest Service as a fisheries biologist on the Hiawatha National Forest in 1978. His previous work experience includes musky research with the Bell Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis, teaching at the high school and college levels, and working as a fishing guide in the Hayward area for 11 summers.

Mike is also an accomplished writer. In 1982, he received one of eight awards

from the Outdoor Writer's Association of America for his technical and popular outdoor articles in various magazines and newspapers. He has won other awards for conservation writing as well. Mike currently writes a column in the Visitor magazine, a local publication of the Hayward area. He also gives talks on conservation-related subjects.

Mike is married and has a two-year-old daughter. He has a career appointment, and he plans to make a career of working for the Forest Service. The musky project is scheduled to continue through 1983; so by 1984, we'll know a lot more about improving spawning habitat for muskies--with Mike Dombeck's help.

Wilderness Review

During the week of May 10, Gaylord Yost from the Regional Office and Toivo Sober from the Superior National Forest joined us for a management review of Rainbow Lake Wilderness. This was the first such review since Rainbow Lake was designated as wilderness in 1975. Several folks from the S.O. and Washburn Ranger District rode horses through the wilderness to see the effects of visitor use and to discuss management opportunities. Pete Wingle from the Regional Office joined the review team on Thursday when hiking side trips were made into the wilderness from the roads which form the wilderness boundary. The review helped us identify several management opportunities regarding wilderness visitors, signing, water quality monitoring and fish management.

Motorbike Trails

Larry Freidig from the Wisconsin DNR's Madison office visited the Forest on May 25 to look at our opportunities to provide trails for motorbike use. The WDNR has funds available that we may be able to use to construct and maintain multipurpose trails that include motorbike use. We took the opportunity to ride motorbikes on a portion of a trail open to motorbike use within the Washburn Ranger District. A person from each Ranger District was invited to participate in the ride and talk to Larry

March/April 1985

Contact

USDA • FOREST SERVICE • EASTERN REGION

Palzo: Reclaiming a Strip Mine

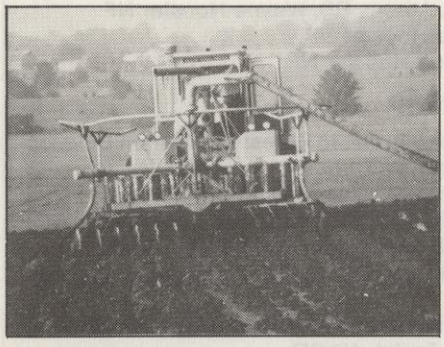
Shawnee NF Restores Toxic Spoils With Sludge

A cooperative agreement was signed in July 1984 by the Shawnee National Forest and the Illinois Abandoned Mined Land Reclamation Council. Under terms of the agreement Illinois will expend up to $2,000,000 over a five year period to complete the reclamation of Palzo (a tract of land in southern Illinois damaged by strip mining). The agreement was the first in Region-9 and perhaps in the nation under which national forest land will be reclaimed by a state agency utilizing state funds. The forest has approved the state's operating plan and the work began in August, 1984 to complete the restoration of Palzo to a semblance of what it was - once.

The Palzo story began over 20 years ago. Prior to 1959 Palzo was nothing more than a 312 acre tract of private land characterized by rolling hills, rich soil and good vegetative cover. In late 1959 Palzo began to change. The most evident change resulted from the removal of the coal resource by uncontrolled strip mining. Before mining ceased in 1961 one coal seam was removed from the entire area and a second seam removed from 192 of the site's 312 acres. The spoil-overburden material resulting from strip mining on the 192 acres was highly toxic, acid generating material which prevented revegetation. Acidic runoff seriously degraded the water quality of the adjoining stream. The gentle hills that once characterized Palzo were now replaced with mountains of acid spoil, completely devoid of vegetation.

In 1966, the Forest Service purchased Palzo from the Stonefort Mining Company, under authority of the Weeks Act of 1911. "We bought Palzo for two reasons", said Bob Mason, Shawnee NF Lands, Watershed and Minerals Staff Officer; "1) To demonstrate that strip mined land could be reclaimed and thereby encourage coal companies and others who had abandoned such lands to reclaim their lands, and 2) through the reclamation process, provide our Job Corps heavy equipment program a year-round site for training."

Early attempts at reclamation were made at Palzo utilizing various common lime-fertilizer seeding techniques in conjunction with recontouring land None were successful. Early research indicated that treated municipal waste, or sludge, had a tremendous capacity to neutralize acid, provide plant nutrients, and establish an organic base for soil development. The Forest Service was approached by the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago (MSD) with the proposal that sludge be considered an alternative method for reclaiming Palzo. The proposal envisioned the solution of two critical environmental issues - how to dispose of sludge and how to reclaim acid spoils.



***Sludge was** pumped through a rubber hose and disked into the spoils of Palzo. (Photo by Charles Gill; RO-OI)*

Onsite sludge test plots were established. This was the beginning of the very intensive field and laboratory research that would continue throughout the life of the Palzo project, and continue long after the last gallon of sludge was incorporated into the spoils of Palzo.

Sludge Application

Research concluded that sludge indeed could be used to reclaim the Palzo site. Job Corps enrollees concentrated their efforts under the supervision of union contract program instructors to ready the site for sludge application. The site was graded and recontoured with slopes that did not exceed 15 percent.

Actual application began in 1975. The sludge was transported from the Chicago area to Palzo by unitized trains. Peabody Coal Company provided a railhead holding lagoon on their property to unload the tank cars. Peabody also allowed the construction of four and a half miles of pipeline across their land to the Palzo site. The sludge was pumped through a series of four pumps from the railhead lagoon to on-site storage lagoons on Palzo. Subsequently the sludge was incorporated into the spoil through a four inch rubber hose which fed sludge directly into a tractor pulled disc. In all, 57 million gallons of sludge was incorporated into 56 acres of Palzo spoil. The entire cost was assumed by MSD. However, some 136 acres remained unreclaimed.

Results of Sludge Treatment

To date, no significant changes have been noted in overall quality of water leaving the Palzo site. Significant improvements are not expected until the entire site is revegetated. However, success of the sludge application is assured. In December 1983, Shawnee Hydrologist Pat McGuire presented his *Palzo Water Quality Trends* paper at the *Symposium on Surface Mining, Hydrology, Sedimentation and Reclamation*, University of Kentucky. Pat's analysis indicated that five years after sludge treatment and revegetation, the effects on ground and surface water have been positive. Soil PH has increased from 2.5 to 5.5 and various other parameters depict beneficial results of sludge treatment.

Sludge treatment at Palzo received national and international attention. "Inquiries were received from Europe, Japan, Australia, Russia, and nearly every state in the union. They all wanted to know about the use of sludge on

*See **PALZO,** p. 2*

CONTACT PERSONALITY PROFILE

Nancy C. Lein Loves Her Job

Nancy C. Lein is a secretary and she loves her job. Nancy is Supervisory Secretary on the Ottawa National Forest headquartered in Ironwood, Michigan. She works directly for Ottawa Forest Supervisor Joseph Zylinski and Deputy Forest Supervisor Francis J. Voytas.

"My duties can involve a number of things," Nancy explained. "I arrange bus itinerary for non-field going personnel and help with arrangements for the Regional Management Team Meetings. I take care of some travel arrangements for visitors to the Forest and for some Forest employees. Gail Ann Keech (Aviation and Fire Management-RO) does a lot of that for us, and we really appreciate it."

As Supervisory Secretary in the SO Nancy supervises five other employees; the SO receptionist, duplicating machine operator, mail and file clerk, a clerk-typist, and a Senior Community Service Employment program (SCSEP) employee. She also does typing for the Forest Supervisor and attends regular staff meetings to record the minutes.

Nancy C. Lein, *Supervisory Secretary, Ottawa National Forest.*

Nancy has worked for the Forest Service for almost 17 years. She began in the SO on the Ottawa in 1968 as a receptionist. Prior to working for the Forest Service she worked as secretary to three attorneys. She's also worked at a local bank.

Nancy said about her job, "It's really been good fortune to work for the Forest Service. I feel the Forest Service really cares about their employees --examples are the training we receive and the emphasis put on safety."

Nancy said she really enjoyed coordinating the Ottawa's 50th anniversary in 1981. "To see it all come together was rewarding. Retirees were so eager to help and give information about the "early" days."

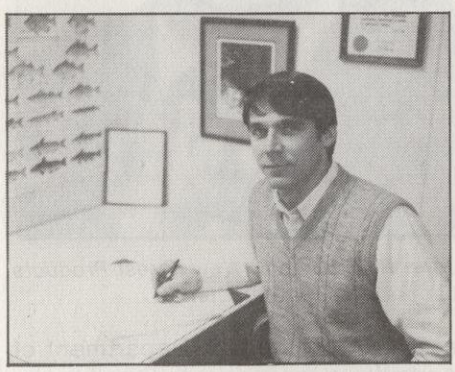
Nancy has worked for five Ottawa National Forest Supervisors. She was always apprehensive whenever a new supervisor arrived, but this apprehension proved to be premature. "Everyone of them was nice to work for and I have no complaints."

Nancy and her husband, Nathan live in Ironwood, Michigan. Her husband recently retired from his Accounting business. They have two children; a daughter, Nena, a Registered Nurse; and a son, Robert, who works for Upper Peninsula Power Company. The Lein's own a cottage on lake Superior where they spend a lot of time in the winter and summer, gardening and enjoying themselves.

Mike Dombeck Receives Technical Paper Award

Mike Dombeck received the "Best Paper" award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society at the Chapter's Annual Meeting on January 18, 1984. Mike works as a fisheries biologist for several national forests in the Lake States, and he is headquartered at the Chequamegon National Forest in Park Falls, Wisconsin.

The technical paper for which Mike received the award is entitled "Muskellunge Spawning Habitat and Reproductive Success." The paper describes the investigative work that Mike has done to improve the natural reproduction of the muskellunge. The muskellunge, or "musky" as it is more commonly known, is a popular trophy and game fish. "The Forest Service is particularly interested in muskies because 50 percent of their native range is inside the boundaries of the national forests," Mike said.



Mike Dombeck, *Fisheries Biologist, Chequamegon NF. Mike's technical paper on natural reproduction of muskies earned the 'Best Paper' award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. (Photo by Dave Wester)*

Natural reproduction of muskies has been declining for a number of years, and expensive stocking programs have been necessary to maintain a population of the big fish in many lakes. Mike, who holds a doctorate in fish biology from Iowa State University, determined that a lack of oxygen near the bottoms of many lakes is responsible for the poor reproduction. "The low oxygen content prohibits the muskies' eggs from hatching," he said.

Mike proposes a possible solution to the problem in his paper. The solution is to place devices made of astro-turf on the lake bottom. "The astro-turf keeps the eggs off the lake bottom and allows them to hatch where the oxygen is more plentiful," Mike said. "So far, the astro-turf method has shown promising results, and it is much less costly than stocking." The astro-turf devices were installed in several lakes in 1984, and plans are to place them in a few more lakes in 1985.

Mike's involvement with the project, however, will diminish in 1985. He has recently been promoted to Regional

See ***Award,*** *p. 10*

An Update of Region-9 Wilderness

Wilderness was prominent in National legislative activity last year. Congressional activity during 1984 resulted in four bills being passed in the first half of the year, and one being passed during the last half, designating wilderness in R-9.

Our July/August issue carried a wilderness fact sheet which included the bills passed through June. On Oct. 30, Congress enacted PL 98-585 designating the Hickory Creek and the Allegheny Islands Wildernesses on the Allegheny NF in Pennsylvania. These areas are 9,337 and 368 acres respectively, and raise R-9's net wilderness to 1,167,228 acres, which is 10 percent of the Region's acreage in National Forests.

A bill has been introduced in the 99th Congress to designate wilderness in Michigan, which would affect 11 areas and 90,390 acres. This is a House Bill and is co-sponsored by nine members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation.

The Wilderness focus in R-9 is on quality management of the large part of the Region's land base already in the National Wilderness Preservation system. When forest land and resource management plans are finished, planning work can be redirected to the effort to develop and put wilderness operating plans into action. These plans will deal with the day-to-day management problems which are too specific to be handled in the Forest Plans. There will be a major effort in the next several years to develop and implement operating plans for all R-9 Wildernesses.

Last year was also a significant year for other areas requiring special management in R-9. Two National Recreation Areas were designated on the Green Mountain and Allegheny NF's, and the Au Sable National Scenic River was designated on the Huron-Manistee NF.

The two National Recreation Areas were designated to provide for resource management other than wilderness.

On the Huron-Manistee, 20 miles of the famed Au Sable River have been designated. The forest has already started to develop a River Management Plan called for by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This is the fourth river in the Region to be included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Pere Marquette River, also on the Huron-Manistee, and the Eleven Point River on the Mark Twain National Forest are two rivers already designated. Part of the Nemakagan River on the Chequamegon National Forest is included in the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. The National Park Service has primary responsibility for the St. Croix River.

Congress determined that recreation and mineral values were important on these lands and National Recreation Area status was deemed to be in the public interest. The Allegheny NRA is 23,100 acres, and the White Rocks NRA on the Green Mountain NF is 36,400 acres. Management Plans are not being developed for both of these areas as directed by Law.

Erickson Is New Director of Forest Products Laboratory

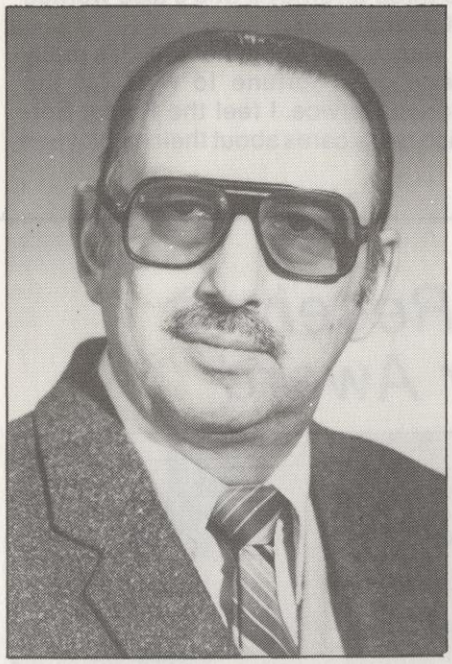
John R. Erickson is the new Director of the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL). He replaced Dr. Robert L. Youngs who directed the Laboratory since 1975 and retired recently after 36 years of Federal Service.

Erickson joined the FPL staff in August of 1983 when he became the Laboratory's Deputy Director. Since that time, he has taken an active role in developing programs and policies and has provided both technical and administrative leadership.

Before coming to FPL, Erickson served as Director of the Forest Products and Engineering Research staff in the Washington office. In this position, he coordinated utilization and engineering research throughout the Forest Service and was active in developing the Forest Service wood biomass energy program in the mid-1970's.

Prior to his assignment in Washington, DC, Erickson was a research engineer with the Forest Service's North Central Experiment Station in Houghton, Michigan, and with the Wisconsin-based Ladish Company.

Erickson has extensive experience in international forestry. He has served as chairman of the Forest Engineering Study Group for the North American Forestry Commission and as the U.S. Forest Service technical representative to the U.S. Japanese Forest Products Trade Committee. In 1978, Erickson was the Forest Service representative on the U.S. Department of Agriculture team sent to Brazil to develop scientific and technical collaboration.



John R. Erickson, *New Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) Director.*

In 1910, the Forest Products Laboratory was established by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin. For 75 years, its objective has been to extend the world's timber resource through improved use of wood products.

(cont'd from p. 9)

Award

Fisheries Program Manager for Region 5. Although Mike will be concentrating his efforts on managing the fisheries program for the 17 national forests in California, his work with muskies in the Lake States is not likely to be forgotten soon.

By Dave Wester,
Public Affairs Specialist,
Chequamegon NF

Circa 1995

Who's Who in BLM

Second Edition

A GUIDE TO THE TOP MANAGERS

• • •

is the mother of triplets?

is a bone marrow donor?

is an iron man competitor?

is a volunteer that helps the homeless?

has worked for the Peace Corps?

has a high interest in house renovation?

are dueling motorcyclists who enjoy high performance driving and auto racing?

was a paratrooper in the military?

collects baskets?

You will find the answers to all of these questions and some of your own by going through the pages of this Second Edition of "Who's Who in BLM." Featured are directors and associate directors from the Bureau's Headquarters Office, 12 State Offices, the National Interagency Fire Center and Denver Service Center.

We hope that you will learn more about these people through their management style, accomplishments, education, and interests. They are the most diverse group of managers in BLM ever, have a great deal of respect for their staffs, and are extremely dedicated to their jobs. We plan to update this publication only as necessary, so keep this copy for a reference.

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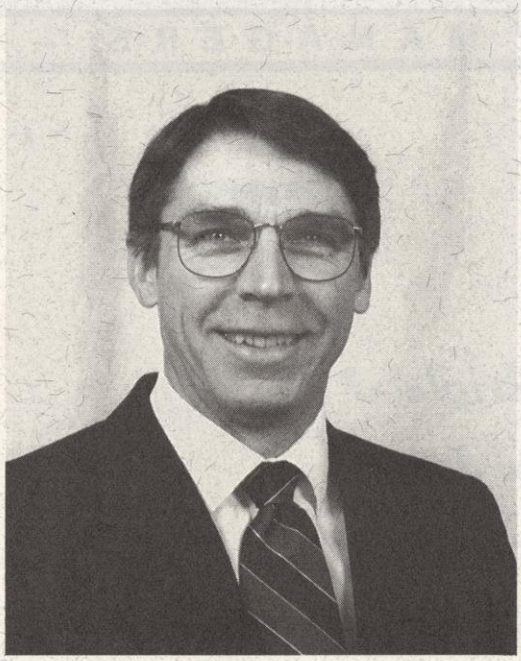

Michael P. Dombeck

Acting Director

Management Style:
"Working with people; motivating them; making them feel valued is the key. Communicate, communicate, communicate. Keep it simple."

Education:
Iowa State University, Ph.D., Fisheries Biology
University of Minnesota, M.S., Zoology
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, M.S.T., B.S., Biology/General Science

Place of Birth:
Stevens Point, WI

Years of Service:
Government: 17 DOI: 2 BLM: 5

Accomplishments He Is Most Proud Of:
"I am proud of being a part of a very close family that has fun together and being a bone marrow donor for a person from Olympia, WA."

Career Highlights:
Fishing Guide
Taught Biological Sciences at the high school and college level
National Fisheries Program Manager
Science Advisor and Special Assistant to the Director, BLM, Washington, DC
Acting Assistant Secretary/Deputy Assistant Secretary, DOI, Washington, DC
Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, DOI, Washington, DC

Interests:
"I enjoy almost every outdoor activity there is — from skiing to fishing, hiking to white water rafting. I also indulge in oil painting, writing, and as much reading as time permits, which lately isn't much."

Components of a Successful Lifestyle:
"A good balance between work and recreation, not taking myself too seriously, and enjoying the humor in the world."

Family:
Wife, Pat; daughter, Mary.