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## Farewell to Fellows from Korea, Taiwan, and India

As summer came to a close, WFI bid farewell to Fellows Kyungtae Park (Korea), Jasjit Walia (India) and Pei-jung Wang (Taiwan). This diverse group of Fellows brought an array of expertise and world views to WFI during their Fellowships.

During his one-year Fellowship, Jasjit Walia researched the realities of sustainable forest management in the Pacific Northwest. In his home state of Himachal Pradesh there is an ever increasing demand on forest resources, due to population growth and limited, fragmented agricultural land. At the same time, the forest sector has diminished capacity—limited staffing, lack of financing, lack of expertise and reach—to meet the forest needs and aspirations of the people. The prominent concerns in Himachal are poverty reduction and economic growth, and how to achieve both alongside conservation and development. Jasjit's lessons from the PNW can be found in his final report, which is available from WFI.

Pei-jung spent a short four months learning about the public participation process used in public forest management decisions in the US. Pei-jung explored case studies on public lands, including



*Pei-jung Wang, Jasjit Walia, and Kyungtae Park in Wallowa County, Oregon.*

Wallowa Resources and the Endangered Species Act. She will take what she has learned back to her research at the Taiwan Forest Research Institute. Her research at TFRI attempts to design research projects which canvass the needs, interests, backgrounds, and modes of communication of both the powerless and those with power, and then evaluates the differences between these two groups.

Kyungtae Park, a manager at Eagon Industrial Co., returned to Seoul after completed a green building project. For six months Kyungtae interviewed architects, developers, manufacturers, and end users about green building materials for high-rise apartments. After his departure in July, the Ko-

rean desk was turned over to another Fellow from Eagon, Seol Woong Lee.

With a background in architecture, Seol Woong Lee is a marketing manager at Eagon Windows and Door Systems. In addition to gaining more practical knowledge about forestry and wood products, Seol Woong will spend six months researching wood-based housing designs for the elderly. Low birthrates and increasing life expectancies are transforming Korean society, and a key issue is providing housing for an aging population.

WFI is preparing for the busy fall season, which will bring Fellows Zengweng Ma (China), Cristopher Lopez Paniagua (Mexico) and Nerijus Miskinis (Lithuania).

## Recent Events



Tim Lichen of Hopkins Demonstration Forest taught Fellows about his work at the 140-acre site, which is open to the public for self-guided exploration, tours, workshops, and education programs.



The 9th annual International Educators Institute hosted participants from India, Australia, Taiwan, Russia, Brazil, China, Korea, Norway, Mexico, New Zealand, South Carolina, Oregon, and Idaho.



WFI Alumnus Luke Balcombe (right) is living in Bend, Oregon, with his wife and was able to join the IEI tour for a day to catch up with Bill Wood (left, Magness Manager) and Carlos Yruretagoyena (Mexico, IEI Alumnus).



Fellows toured the Bull Run Watershed to learn about Portland's drinking water source. The watershed is jointly managed by USFS and the Water Bureau.

## Restoration, Game Management Key at Merlo Ranch

In August, WFI Founder, Harry A. Merlo, invited the WFI Fellows and staff to his 13,000 acre ranch in La Grande, Oregon. Fellows were flown executive-style on a Global Aviation jet to La Grande, and were met by ranch manager Rex Christensen. The sprawling estate had been heavily logged by previous owners, leaving tons of slash and debris, and poor quality trees. Extensive clean up and plantings have improved parts of the land, but significant work remains to be done.

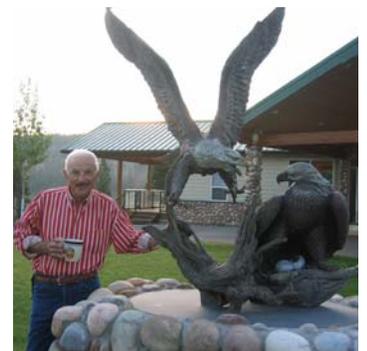
In light of these challenges, and desiring a faster pace of improvements, Harry Merlo has initiated a pilot project utilizing a mechanized crawler muncher that can mulch the slash and other debris, and scarify the land. The theory is that doing so will improve the chances for natural regeneration. Although the upfront capital cost is high, using the machine saves in additional



Director Sara Wu and John Turland (Australia) select the best trees in a stand as leave trees in a harvest operation at the Merlo Corp. Ranch.

labor for piling slash, and removes the need for extensive pile burning. The muncher can also cover a much larger area in the same amount of time. This pilot study is being closely watched by other landowners in the region and by the Oregon Department of Forestry, as it may provide an alternative to traditional piling and burning.

Managing for wildlife is another objective at the Merlo ranch, where large populations of elk and deer roam.



For 3 days WFI was hosted like family, and given an intimate look at multiple-use forest management in the forests of eastern Oregon. It was a breathtakingly beautiful landscape, made more special by host Mr. Merlo and manager Rex.

## Wallowa Resources Presents Case Study in Community Forestry

Wallowa County, population 7,000, is located in the northeastern corner of Oregon. Bordered by the Eagle Cap Wilderness, Hells Canyon, and the Wallowa Mountains, the area is known for its stunning natural beauty, outdoor recreation, and charming small towns. However, the county's economy consistently struggles, with unemployment at 19% during winter months. In 1994, all three sawmills shut down, leaving hundreds out of work, and beginning an economic decline that the county has yet to recover from.

The non-profit Wallowa Resources is developing new models of collaboration to provide economic opportunities for the community that are in line with ecological restoration goals. Wallowa Resources is involved

in small diameter wood utilization, weed management, and watershed restoration. Diane Snyder, Executive Director and Board of Forestry member, introduced Fellows to WR's work during a four-day trip to the area.



From left: Kyungtae Park (Korea), Rick Zenn (Education Director), Diane Snyder (Wallowa Resources), John Turland (Australia), Pei-jung Wang (Taiwan), Angie DiSalvo (Program Manager), and Jasjit Walia (India).

