Forest Health Edition

Pandora Moth Returns to Central Oregon Forests
Forest Health East of the Cascades
Oregon Forest Pest Detector Bronze Birch Borer
Down on the Tree Farm
Letters to Treeman
Local Updates

Life on the Dry Side
Contributors

Bob Parker, Extension Forester
Baker and Grant Counties
2600 East St, Baker City, OR 97814
541-523-6418
bob.parker@oregonstate.edu

Daniel Leavell, Extension Forester
Klamath, Lake, and Harney Counties
6923 Washburn Way
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
541-883-7131
daniel.leavell@oregonstate.edu

Nicole Strong, Extension Forester
Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson Counties and
the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
3893 SW Airport Way
Redmond, OR 97756
541-548-6088
nicole.strong@oregonstate.edu

Paul Oester, Retired Extension Forester
Union, Umatilla and Wallowa Counties
10507 N McAlister Rd
La Grande, OR 97850
541-963-1010
paul.t.oester@oregonstate.edu

Raeann Van Arsdall, Design & Layout
Baker County
2600 East St, Baker City, OR 97814
541-523-6418
raeann.vanarsdall@oregonstate.edu

Our Oregon State University Forestry and Natural
Resources agents serve all counties in Oregon.
Find your local office and agent at:
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/find-us

Life on the Dry Side
OSU FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER
Serving land managers and owners east of the Cascades

Forest Health Edition

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To a Central Oregon Forest Near You

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On the Cover:

Pandora Moth returns to a
Central Oregon forest near you.
Read more on page 4.
Photo Credit: Robbie Flowers
Down on the Tree Farm
Bob Parker, Extension Forester, Baker/Grant Counties

April

Attend Tree School East 2018 in Baker City! We only offer this amazing mini-college every other year so don’t miss out. This year we’re offering 29 unique classes on a wide range of Forestry and Natural Resources related topics, truly something for everybody.

Write a management plan for your property (with a forester’s help) so you can:

• Leave a legacy of your ideas, plans, and vision for those who come after you.
• Join the tree farm program.
• Qualify for stewardship cost-share programs.
• Become a certified tree farm.

May

Weather tempting? Ready to work? Feel like an eager beaver?

• Resist the urge to prune now. Sap attracts pitch moths and eliminating branches just at the time of maximum growing may affect overall growth of the tree.

June

Chain saws make good graduation gifts! Convince your children or grandchildren to “practice” using it to accomplish an unfinished project on the property.

Many family reunions happen in the summer months. It’s a good opportunity to admire completed projects and “infect” your successors with pride. While you’re there, be sure to take a family photo.

Things to do on a rainy day before fire season:

• Change the oil in at least one of your pieces of equipment.
• Make sure you fire equipment is in good working order.
• Sharpen your fire tools.
• Make sure your power saw spark arrestor screen is good.
• Have you fire extinguishers recharged and checked out. Time is not a friend to your fire extinguishers.
• Make sure you have at least one operating fire extinguisher in each of your vehicles, on each piece of equipment and on you when you operate a power saw, lawn mower, weed whacker, or other power tools.
Pandora Moth Returns
To a Central Oregon Forest Near You
By Robbie W. Flowers, PhD, Forest Entomologist
USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection
Central Oregon Forest Insect and Disease Service Center

Even though it still feels like winter throughout much of central Oregon, spring is on the way and with it comes the return of an insect that has a deep and historic connection with this area. It’s commonly known as the Pandora moth, Coloradia pandora (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae), and it will soon be coming (again) to a central Oregon forest near you. If you were in the Bend area last summer, you’ll remember the large number of moths that were present in many areas of town and the surrounding forests. They were particularly abundant near outdoor lights at homes and businesses and appeared in rather spectacular fashion at Vince Genna Stadium to help in supporting the Bend Elks baseball club. The adults we see in odd calendar years during outbreak events give way to larvae in even calendar years, and so we can expect to see areas of significant defoliation of pine-dominated areas this summer.

Pandora moth is native to the western United States and periodic outbreaks have occurred in many areas. The first recorded outbreak in central Oregon was in the 1890s on the Klamath Indian Reservation. Pandora moth generally occurs only in areas with loose, granular, volcanic soils, which are needed for them to complete their life cycle. Tree ring analyses of old growth ponderosa pine suggest that over 22 outbreaks have occurred here during the past 600 years. And, while the adults tend to be primarily only a nuisance around homes and businesses, the larvae can cause extensive defoliation of pine-dominated forests and result in growth loss and even some tree mortality when coupled with other stress such as ongoing drought or bark beetle outbreaks.

During outbreaks the defoliation occurs every other year because Pandora moth requires two years to complete one generation. The eggs that were laid by female moths last fall then hatched into larvae that fed in small colonies on last year’s foliage. These larvae overwinter on the tree, often at the base of the needles, and resume feeding in the spring as conditions allow. Given our mild winter this year, a small number of larvae have already been seen in low elevation areas along the Cascade Lakes highway. As these larvae continue to grow and feed, we can expect much heavier defoliation to occur in the coming

Cont. on page 6.

Pandora Moth larve. Photo (3) credit: Robbie W. Flowers, PhD

Deforestation by Pandora Moth
Outbreaks are usually short-lived and last for only 3-4 generations (6-8 years). It is suspected that we are now in year 4 of the current outbreak cycle as increasing numbers of adults were observed in 2015 and 2017, while larvae defoliated small areas to the south and west of Bend in 2016.

Photo Credit: Terry Spivey
months. Their feeding is usually completed by late June after which they move down from the trees and into the soil to pupate. It is during this exodus from the trees that they are most often observed by the public and may be a nuisance due to their sudden appearance along trails and roads or in camping and recreation sites. Those larvae that do not find the bottom of hiking boots or car and bike tires will transform into adults and the cycle continues.

However, outbreaks are usually short-lived and last for only 3-4 generations (6-8 years). It is suspected that we are now in year 4 of the current outbreak cycle as increasing numbers of adults were observed in 2015 and 2017, while larvae defoliated small areas to the south and west of Bend in 2016. The defoliation that year was most evident near Lava Butte, but by mid-summer when the flush of new needles had occurred it was not nearly as apparent. In terms of “managing” these outbreaks, direct action against the insects themselves is rarely warranted. This is due in part to the effects of the defoliation being reduced because of the 2-year life cycle, which allows time for the trees to recover.

It is also because Pandora moth outbreaks have historically subsided rather quickly due to a variety of native, natural enemies that serve to keep populations at low levels and/or contribute to the collapse of outbreaks. One of the most important is a disease caused by a virus, which rapidly infects and kills larvae. Small mammals also feed on the pupae in the soil and have been reported as another important control, while many species of birds along with predatory and parasitic insects are known to feed on Pandora moth eggs and larvae. In contrast, ongoing management of pine-dominated forests in commonly affected areas is recommended using treatments such as thinning or prescribed burning to aid in restoring and maintaining the appropriate tree species and densities for those areas. Increasing forest health and improving tree vigor not only keeps the trees growing well but also allows them to more quickly recover from the effects of defoliating insects like Pandora moth and other stressors.

For more information, see:
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Cost share opportunities

In Central Oregon, there are currently four areas where you might qualify for cost share funding to accomplish forest health and fuels reduction objectives:

• Southern Deschutes County
• Wychus - Sisters area
• Greater La Pine Basin
• Greater Sisters Fuels Reduction Project

All of these are opportunities for fuels reduction projects within the Wildland Urban Interface and surrounding areas. ODF Stewardship Forester Boone Zimmerlee is the primary contact to apply for these programs. Boone.Zimmerlee@oregon.gov. You can also request more information online: http://odfcentraloregonloresources.blogspot.com/p/grant-request-form.html

If you haven't met Chase Duncan, our new Stewardship Forester based out of Prineville, I recommend popping into the office and saying hi! Another opportunity to meet all of our Central Oregon ODF Stewardship Foresters is by attending one of two ODF hosted luncheons, April 14 in Sisters and April 21 in Prineville. To RSVP, email chase.d.duncan@oregon.gov, or call Chase Duncan at (541) 447-5658.

There is also a 50/50 cost share opportunity in the La Pine basin through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Please contact Tom Bennett at tom.bennett@or.usda.gov or (541) 699-3186 for more information.

SPRING FOREST STEWARDSHIP SERIES

Register today

If you haven’t registered for one, or all of the Spring Forest Stewardship classes, you still have a little time to do so. Each class is $15, take all 3 Spring classes for $35. RSVP at least 2 weeks before each class. Questions? (541) 548-6088 or email nicole.strong@oregonstate.edu. Scholarships are available upon request. More details and resources will be sent once you register.

Tree and Shrub I.D., Online Resources for Managing your Land, and An Introduction to Central Oregon’s Forest Ecology
Wednesday April 11, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Redmond Library

Upland Forest Ecology and Management: Making Decisions and Taking Management Actions Based on Your Goals
Saturday May 12, 8 am – 4 pm, Prineville Library. Class and Field Session

Watershed and Stream Ecology and Management
Saturday June 9, 8 am – 4 pm, Oregon Department of Forestry office, Sisters. Class and Field Session

DETAIL

Each class is $15, or all 3 Spring classes for $35. RSVP 2 weeks before each class.

Call (541) 548-6088 or email nicole.strong@oregonstate.edu for more information and a registration form.

*Scholarships are available upon request. More details and resources will be sent once you register.

“It’s still a good time to get some pile burning done.”
Outlook and Recommendations

By David Shaw, FNR Extension, Forest Health Specialist, Associate Professor, Department of Forest Engineering, Resources, and Management, Oregon State University

The annual Forest Health in Oregon: State of the State 2018 conference occurred this past February 28 and March 1, 2018 in Corvallis, Oregon. This conference has been held every-other-year since 2010, and focuses on the current status of forest insect and pathogen outbreaks, as well as fire, weather related impacts on forests and wildlife considerations/impacts on forest health.

We aim to discuss and learn about management practices to achieve forest health objectives, and gain perspectives on how people think about forest health. In the following article I will summarize some of the take home messages that relate to forests east of the Cascade Mountains.

Bark Beetles and Defoliators

Our keynote speaker was Jeff Hicke, Professor of Geography at University of Idaho who specializes in the interaction of climate change, forests, and disturbances such as insect outbreaks and wildfire. Jeff noted that since the late 1970’s about 7% of western forests have experienced some level of bark beetle kill, which is more acreage than impacted by wildfires. In eastern Oregon, mountain pine beetle and fir engraver were the two most important bark beetles in terms of acreage. Many factors influence bark beetle outbreaks, but weather, especially drought appears to be a major player. Depending on climate change scenarios, there is the potential for bark beetle activity to increase, or perhaps decrease since lengthening growing seasons may disrupt beetle synchronicity of emergence, which is needed to mass attack trees.

Christine Buhl, Oregon Department of Forestry, discussed recent insect activity in Oregon. The major insects causing mortality at this time are bark beetles east of the cascades, and the balsam woolly adelgid in subalpine fir in higher elevation forests. Defoliators like western spruce budworm and tussock moth have not been especially active in the recent decade. Bark beetle activity has been especially active in south central Oregon and the Blue Mts, and in the Blue Mts. ponderosa pine and grand fir have seen increased bark beetle impacts. In addition, we have been seeing considerable mortality of Douglas-fir in the interior valleys of western Oregon, especially in the Ashland, Medford, Roseburg region below 2,500 ft. Bill Schaupp from USFS Forest Health Protection in Central Point noted the connection with drought, but also to the flat-headed fir borer, a wood borer that has been found in these declining Douglas-fir. Bill thinks the flat-headed fir borer is not to blame for all the mortality, but is playing an important role in this complex mortality event.
Do Bark Beetles Increase the Risk of Wildfire?

According to our keynote speaker, the answer is... "it depends!". The key to understanding bark beetles and fire risk is thinking about how fuels change over time since the initial outbreak. For example, during a beetle outbreak, and shortly after, the canopy is full of red, dry needles, which increases potential for crown fires, increased fire severity, and ability to burn. However, once the outbreak is over, and all these dead needles have fallen to the ground, the canopy is not as likely to burn.

Speaking of Wildfire...

On our second day, Chris Dunn and Garrett Meigs opened the conference with a review of recent fire activity. Their talk title describes it all; ‘A Westside Story: the 2017 Fire Year in Review’ in which they focused on the many 2017 west Cascade fires, especially the Eagle Creek fire in the Columbia River Gorge and the Chetco Bar fire in SW Oregon. This was followed by a “Showcase of OSU Oregon Fire Research” which was split into west side and east side research. Several graduate students presented their research findings.

Of note, Kayla Johnston helped participants understand how fire suppression affected ponderosa pine forest structural development (increased density, reduction of average diameter) in the Metolious Research Natural Area. Will Downing found that, unlike southern California where severe wildfire may be causing permanent shifts from forest to shrub lands, that in the Blue Mountains, regeneration appears to be coming in at a reasonable rate following severe fire. That is good news!

Better Understanding of Tree Mortality

Two talks in the afternoon focused on tree mortality and emphasized the need for long-term permanent sample plots to determine the rate of mortality for forest trees. The rate of mortality of forest trees is often described as the percent of a population of trees that die per year (%/yr). In Oregon the overall rate of mortality for all trees across 29,195,481 acres is 1.8%/yr. In general, our forests are not going bust; mortality has decreased... Cont. on page 10.

Learn More by Watching these Presentations online


All the presentations have been posted online at: http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/foresthealth/
Managing to Optimize Forest Health

Finally, the conference closed with talks on applied silviculture and forest health. Perhaps most interesting to Dry Siders was the talk by Beth Willhite, USFS Forest Entomologist (insect specialist) who presented on whether thinning prevents bark beetle attacks to managed stands. In general, she feels that thinning works, and will improve stand conditions and prevent beetle kill. However, there are cases and examples where thinning did not work, and these were associated with specific situations such as a major mountain pine beetle epidemic and older lodgepole pine, when thinning a single stand did not influence mortality patterns. Nancy Grulke presented metrics for measuring Ponderosa pine stress in the field, while Doug Maguire discussed Silviculture and trade-offs of mixed species management of dry and wet sides of Oregon.

MISSION

Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (K-LFHP)

To facilitate restoration projects on public and private forestland in Klamath and Lake Counties through education, outreach and diverse partnerships. Additional information for the K-LFHP can be found at: www.KLFHP.org

PRESCRIBED BURN PROGRAM

March 6, 2018

Our Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership held a meeting to plan a Prescribe Burn Action Plan. Fire staff from the Fremont-Winema NF (representing fire agencies in south central Oregon), Oregon Department of Forestry foresters, The Nature Conservancy (representing the Oregon Prescribe Fire Council), OSU Extension, and Partners within the K-LFHP joined together to chart a course.

The goal is to increase the size and scale of prescribed fire within Lake and Klamath Counties, with the goal of working together as a partnership to implement prescribed fire across private and public lands. As stated on the Oregon Prescribed Fire Council Webpage, we are “moving toward a future where safe and effective prescribed burning opportunities are maximized.” We agreed to pass on a motion/recommendation for K-LFHP to become a Chapter of the Oregon Prescribe Fire Council to increase the connectedness and partnership across the State (motion was passed at the next K-LFHP meeting).

We also agreed to develop a landscape-scale assessment to address prescribed and managed fire map for Lake and Klamath Counties on public and private land. We discussed how education and outreach is very important.
As a result, a workshop is planned early September for landowners and fire managers on how to successfully implement pile and prescribe burning. We discussed implementing landscape prescribed fire in partnership between agencies, entities, and landowners by using cross-boundary burn plans. We identified a need to complete the necessary agreements and burn plans between agencies and non-profit entities and between agencies/entities and landowners. We discussed what agreements currently exist. Recommendation to default to the USFS template for compliance and to add any other supplements needed to comply with the public and private lands issues.

We also discussed bringing a TREX (Training Exchange) program to southern Oregon. We agreed to incorporate additional materials available through the Pacific Northwest Fire Science Consortium into local training and education opportunities. There are other Learning Networks, e.g., Fire Learning Network, Fire Adapted Communities. OSU is developing a Fire Science Curriculum. Issue is building college credits with curriculum.

Photo below: 1995 prescribe burn on the Gerber Ranch and BLM. Successful cross-boundary project [courtesy Ned Livingston].

CHILOQUIN PUBLIC MEETING
March 15, 2018
K-LFHP held a community meeting and workshop at the Chiloquin Fire and Rescue Substation #3. It was a good turnout with private landowners and Agency representatives. The importance of a landscape effort to achieve forest health, fuels reduction, wildlife habitat, and efficient and safe fire response was illustrated in a training workshop. We discussed the results of the map and inventory project conducted over the last four months, which included the fire response inventory. The K-LFHP is in the grant proposal phase of the Chiloquin project. We still have educational and outreach needs and will still work to include as many residents as possible.
The bronze birch borer (BBB) is a beetle native to eastern Oregon and much of the United States. Since the early 2000s, it has become established in urban areas of western Oregon, killing many birch trees. By the time homeowners notice a problem, the damage is often too extensive to save the tree. Both native and introduced birch species are susceptible to this pest, though some species are more resistant than others.

**Insect identification**

**Adult**
- 6.5 to 11.5 mm (0.3 to 0.5 inch) long, slender, and metallic olive to coppery brown
- Active May through August

**Larva**
- 2.5 to 38.0 mm (0.1 to 1.5 inch) long, creamy white, with bell-shaped segments
- Found under the bark throughout the year
- Causes damage to tree by eating tissue below the bark
- Creates galleries or tunnels under bark that are sometimes visible (raised areas, bumps).

**Hosts**
Birch (Betula spp.). Birch trees in western Oregon are primarily found in cities and towns as landscape trees. Species vary in susceptibility. European birch
species are highly susceptible and native birch species are the most resistant to this insect.

**Signs and symptoms**
- Branch dieback in top third of the crown (mature trees)
- Individual branch dieback or completely wilted look (young trees)
- Raised, rippled, or bumpy bark, particularly in a zigzag pattern
- D-shaped holes in trunk, sometimes with yellow or brown stain below the hole
- Adults visible on tree trunks for 3-4 weeks in summer

**How to protect your trees from BBB**
Plant resistant birch species (paper birch, gray birch, and river birch), avoid planting highly susceptible birch species (European birch, Asian birch, Himalayan birch, and Japanese monarch birch), or consider a completely different tree species. Maintain tree species diversity on your property.

Know which stressors increase birch susceptibility and manage them accordingly. Stressors include drought, defoliation, lightning strikes, injuries, and over-maturity.

Birch trees thrive in moist, cool soils with full to partial sun exposure. Keep trees watered and avoid fertilization during drought periods.

Add organic mulch to newly planted or established trees to keep soil temperatures cool and reduce moisture loss.

Prevent defoliation by controlling pests (e.g., aphids, scales, and leafminers).

The transport of firewood is one of the main ways BBB is moved to new locations. Purchase locally sourced firewood to reduce the possibility of introducing BBB into a non-infested area.

**What to do if you suspect BBB**
If the tree already has 50% or more crown dieback, it will likely die. Remove the tree to prevent spread of the insect (Figure #, Levels 1-3).

If the tree has less than 50% crown dieback, you can use a trunk spray (such as carbaryl) to control hatching eggs on the bark or a systemic insecticide (such as imidacloprid or dinotefuran) to control larval feeding in the tree (Figure #, Levels 4-5). Either hire a certified arborist or choose a consumer pesticide labeled to treat bronze birch borer and follow the instructions.

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**Your woods may provide you and your family with many benefits:**
- Recreation
- Wildlife
- Investment for future generations
- Beauty
- Income

**WHERE DO WE START?**
We will be hosting several community meetings and workshops to introduce the project and to hear from you. We will also be calling and knocking on doors to inform everyone about this effort. You may even be encouraged by your neighbors to get involved — remember, wildfire knows no property boundaries!

**NEXT STEPS**
In 2017 we will be working with landowners to map their forests and fire risks at no cost or obligation to them. We can provide you with information on the condition of your forest, recommendations on how to reduce your wildfire risk, and a foundation for your land management plan.

Our ultimate goal is to secure grant funding to allow landowners to complete forest treatments on their property, creating tracts of resilient forests across public and private land.

By providing technical and financial resources throughout the process, we hope to reduce the risk of wildfire for the larger Chiloquin community.

Visit [www.KL-FHP.org/chiloquin](http://www.KL-FHP.org/chiloquin) or email foresthealth@KL-FHP.org to learn more.

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**HELP US HELP YOU!**
Our local forestry and fire professionals can work with you to enhance and protect your property!

[Image of group of people]
FIRE FUELS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

Hands-on workshop
June 16, 9 a.m. to noon

The Fire Fuels Management Techniques is a hands-on, in the field workshop that will be held north of Medical Springs on June 16th, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Effective Fuel Reduction
This workshop will educate landowners on effective fuel reduction techniques through hands-on activities such as thinning and pruning, and disposing of slash by piling and burning, or chipping.

Chainsaw Maintenance
We’ll also demonstrate how to maintain a chainsaw so bring yours to the class!

For more information on the workshop and to register, call the Baker County Extension office at 541-523-6418.

MY BLUE MOUNTAIN WOODLANDS

Project Field Tour
May 19, 2018

The My Blue Mountains Woodlands (MBMW) project is a partnership of public and non-profit organizations and private landowners working to help woodland owners in northeastern Oregon.

The combination of droughts and uncharacteristically dense forests create water-stressed forests that are more vulnerable to insect infestations, tree mortality and a higher risk of severe wildfire problems. Landowners often choose to manage their own lands for healthier conditions – but what about the neighbors who don’t? Insects and wildfires don’t politely stop at the fence line. These are landscape scale problems and need to be addressed at a landscape scale, an “all hands, all lands” approach on both private and federal properties.

Four years ago, eight public and private organizations (American Forest Foundation, Wallowa Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Forest Service, Oregon Forest Resource Institute, Oregon Department of Forestry, OSU Extension & Blue Mountain Cohesive Wildfire Strategy) and private landowners created a partnership to help address these issues in Baker, Union, Wallowa and Umatilla counties. To date, the MBMW effort has resulted in well over two thousand acres being treated by private landowners alone.

This workshop will include a field tour of a landowner project now under way where we’ll look at and discuss the landowner goals, specific treatments and equipment used, costs, benefits, and so on.

The MBMW project has inspired 12 similar programs across the western USA and the goal is to continue this good work in our region so join the workshop and learn how this innovative approach is benefitting the land and our communities.

Please RSVP by calling the Baker County Extension office at 541-523-6418.
## LOG MARKET REPORT

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### Exploit to Longview

| Pine - Hemlock - |

### Export to Dallasport

| J-Sort C-Sort |

### Lakeview/Klamath Falls

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**March 9, 2018**
Dear Paula,

I was having a discussion with some of the office staff the other day and asked if anyone knew which state was the origin of Smokey the Bear. No one got the correct answer. So first, a few things I bet you didn’t know about how, “Only You...Can Prevent Forest Fires!”

The national campaign to reduce the number of human caused fires began in 1937, featuring Uncle Sam as a forest ranger. The message was, “Your Forests—Your Fault—Your Loss.” In 1944, Walt Disney released the movie “Bambi,” and allowed the Forest Service to use the deer on campaign posters for one year. After the year expired, Disney would not allow further use of Bambi. However, The Forest Service decided to continue using an animal and chose a bear as their fire safety mascot.

Smokey Bear was the chosen name, after “Smokey” Joe Martin, Assistant Fire Chief of the New York City Fire Department. Smokey Bear became so popular he received his own zip code because of the huge amount of fan mail. But where's the bear we've come to know and love?

In 1950, the Capitan Gap wildfire occurred on the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. A group of firefighters barely survived after being unable to escape the raging fire. After the danger passed, there in a burnt tree was an injured and scared black bear cub.

He was nicknamed “Hotfoot Teddy” and gained nationwide attention. Renamed Smokey, after the symbol for fire prevention.

Smokey’s permanent home became the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Smokey never fathered any offspring, so Smokey II was adopted to carry on for Smokey in his old age. Smokey retired in 1975, after 25 years of service, and passed away later that year. His adopted son continued service until 1990, but the character of Smokey the Bear is interminable.

Just thought you’d like to know,
- Treeman

Dear Treeman,

Where was Smokey Bear's original home?

Paula