

Obituary

Edward D. Helton

June 19, 1945 – February 21, 2019

On February 21, 2019 a stroke felled Ed Helton and sent him on his eternal ride in the Crooked River National Grasslands very unexpectedly at age 73.

I miss Ed Helton.

I first met Ed through work developing standards for healthcare, where, with this calm but persistent approach, he always got the job done. Ed was a kind, thoughtful man, always willing to share his time, to really listen and to lend a hand. Ed believed in making our world a better place and was not afraid to be unpopular to do the right thing, which he did several times in his career in positions at NCI for standards development, at FDA in drug safety, in academia and the pharmaceutical industry.

Ed was a captivating storyteller, always looking for the perfect audience. He would talk proudly about having served two tours during the Vietnam War as Army Captain and Director of the Clinical Investigation Laboratory at Brooks Army Medical Center, for which he earned the Meritorious Service Medal. I admired him for the good things he quietly achieved for mankind, like getting lifesaving drugs approved by FDA, or removing dangerous ones from the market, but it was his crazy horse stories and tales of nature's beauty which touched my heart. Ed clearly loved living life.

Ed adored his children and grandchildren and spent a great deal of time ensuring they were taken care of while he was alive, and even in death.

Ed always dreamt of having a simpler life that would allow him to focus on the things that mattered to him, and he found that in Sisters. Here, Ed was able to be close to his son and grandsons, which allowed him to share with them his passion for the outdoors. Ed did appreciate the natural beauty of the high plateau and the unfenced land, so he could ride his horse, Pacific Fritz. And Ed liked the people here, who are "real," understand the land and embody the best qualities of a neighbor.

Ed had just bought his dream property adjacent to the Crooked River National Grasslands when I got to know him better. Ed loved this place, because he could ride from his house for hours, or even days, whenever he felt like it. Ed wanted a practical house that took care of the basics, satisfied his sense



of beauty and gave him a place of peace and quiet. So he built his barn the way he wanted, got himself two wonderful dogs for company and moved in to finally start living his lifelong dream. Ed loved the view from his windows of all the peaks of the Cascades, which he would name off frequently, the clouds and colors in the sky, the sunlight on Smith Rock and the snow on the Ochocos. I was fortunate to share and contribute to his dream, even if just for a short amount of time. Ed had found his happy place and we had made lots of plans for new adventures.

Please join me in remembering Ed by spending time with friends. Bring your stories and pictures of Ed and some food to share on Sunday, April 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. to the clubhouse at the Sisters Rodeo Grounds. Instead of flowers, consider a donation to the American Cancer Society, <https://donate3.cancer.org>, in his name.

Obituary submitted by Riki Merrick

Ranger District to host open house

There are a lot of projects afoot in the forests surrounding Sisters.

Foresters will soon be taking down dead trees along the Highway 20 corridor, the Sisters Ranger District is planning a major forest-health project around Suttle Lake, and fire season will soon be upon Sisters Country.

In mid-April, the Deschutes National Forest's Sisters Ranger District will host an informational open house for the public to learn about what is happening on the national forest lands within the ranger district.

The open house will be held on April 11, 2019 at the Camp Sherman RFPD Fire Station, 301 S. Elm St., in Sisters from 5 to 7 p.m. Doors will open at 4:45 p.m. and the program will begin at 5 p.m. If people cannot attend at 5 p.m. for the formal program they are still welcomed to come any time prior to 7 p.m. to visit with Sisters Ranger District staff.

Forest Service staff will discuss the upcoming removal of hazard trees along Highway 20 for public safety, expectations for the coming fire season, and current and upcoming projects and answer questions about any other items the public is interested in discussing.

In addition, for people interested in volunteering for the Forest Service, Discover Your Forest will be at the open house to visit about volunteer opportunities and how to become a volunteer.

"We want to share our work from the past year and plans for the coming year with the public in an informal setting to allow people to

talk to us, ask questions and share their thoughts about the national forest. We hope to see a lot of people join us to let us know what is important to them," said Ian Reid, Sisters District Ranger.

For more information about the open house, the public may contact the Sisters Ranger District at 541-549-7700.

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