

September 2012

Smokejumper Obituary: Smith, Theodore McRoberts "Ted" (Missoula 1962)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Smith, Theodore McRoberts "Ted" (Missoula 1962)

Ted, 71, died Sept. 1, 2012, during a hike in the Mission Mountains near St. Ignatius, Montana. A Missoula native, Ted graduated from Missoula County High School, serving as student body president in 1958-59.

He earned a degree with honors from Pomona College, and got his master's and doctorate degrees in Political Science from the University of California. As a graduate student and contract employee of the U.S. State Department, Ted served in Vietnam in 1965. He jumped from Missoula in the 1962-64 seasons before embarking on a 12-year career with the Ford Foundation, which included service in Indonesia, as well as a two-year stint preparing the organization's \$175 million budget.

Ted then served six years as president of John D. Rockefeller III's Agricultural Development Council, focused on agricultural and resource policies in Asia and Africa. Ted became the founding director of the Consultative Group on Biological Diversity, and during the 1980s and 1990s he served as consultant to the World Bank (Indonesia and Bhutan), USAID (Indonesia) and the Rockefeller Foundation (International Program). He ran the Boston-based Kendall Foundation (1993-2009) where he developed American and Canadian programs in ocean fisheries policies, landscape conservation, watershed management and climate change-energy conservation. Ted worked with land trust organizations to conserve 2 million acres of wildlife habitat in Montana. He co-founded the Heart of the Rockies Initiative.

At the time of his death, Ted was serving on the boards of Earthjustice, the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, and ACLU Montana. He was senior fellow with the Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy at the University of Montana.

(end of excerpt)