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## **Smokeyumper Obituary: Howells, Dan M. (McCall 1974)**

National Smokeyumper Association

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# Smokejumper Obituary

## Howells, Dan M. (McCall 1974)

Dan died October 24, 2021, at home in Eugene, Oregon. He had been battling esophageal cancer for the past year. Dan was born in Buffalo, Wyoming, and received his bachelor's in Forestry from Colorado State University, and a master's in Forestry from University of Washington. He started his outdoor career on a trail crew in the Big Horn N.F. and jumped at McCall 1974-75. His degree in forestry led him to his 40-year career with the Bureau of Land Management in Eugene, Oregon. While at BLM, he served on Incident Command Teams, as Air Support Supervisor and Heli-base manager. He was also appointed to be BLM's Leave No Trace representative for the state of Oregon.

Family cross country ski adventures and Boy Scout snow camping inspired Dan to join the Back Country Ski Patrol. He started as a volunteer in 2003 and became a National Ski Patroller. The Outdoor Emergency Preparedness courses he took as a patroller motivated him to attend and become a Wilderness Medicine Instructor for the Wilderness Medicine Institute, and the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), and most recently for REI. And after the Leave No Trace Task Force was formed in 2006, Dan was recruited to join. He remained an active member of the Outdoor Ethics Committee until his health forced him to step down December 2020.

After retiring from BLM in 2010, Dan spent 10 years as a sales associate at REI. An active Scouter and dedicated volunteer, he brought a wealth of outdoor leadership experience and was a fierce defender of the inclusion of risk management in all Leave No Trace course offerings. From 1999-2018 Dan led trainings or taught BSA Leave No Trace Master Educator Courses around the US.

*(end of excerpt)*