

August 2021

## Smokejumper Obituary: Gutkoski, Joseph J. "Joe" (Missoula 1950)

National Smokejumper Association

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## Smokejumper Obituary

### **Gutkoski, Joseph J. "Joe" (Missoula 1950)**

Joe, 94, died August 5, 2021. He was born and raised in Wilkes-Barre, PA., and graduated from the township high school. Joe enlisted in the Navy in WW II where he served on the Destroyer Lansdowne. He graduated from Penn State University under the WW II GI Bill with a BS degree in Landscape Architecture. He began work with the US Forest Service in the late 1940s as a firefighter in Idaho. He transferred to Missoula where he jumped 1950-62.

Joe then transferred to Bozeman where he worked as a Landscape Architect for the Forest Service Regional Lands Office doing land planning and design. In 1964 he was assigned to the Gallatin N.F. in Bozeman. He retired from the USFS In 1982 with 32 years of service.

He then started a licensed practice in land planning and design up to the time of his death. Joe was a lifelong environmentalist and defender of public lands and waters. Joe was President and founding member of Montana Rivers and Yellowstone Buffalo Foundation. He also served as President of Gallatin Wildlife Association, member of Montanans for Gallatin Wilderness, and Vice President of Montana Wildlife Federation. Joe was an NSA Life Member.

*(end of excerpt)*