

September 2004

Smokejumper Obituary: Smith, Walter Morris (Boise 1971)

National Smokejumper Association

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Recommended Citation

National Smokejumper Association, "Smokejumper Obituary: Smith, Walter Morris (Boise 1971)" (2004).
Smokejumper Obituaries. 1543.

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Smokejumper Obituary

Smith, Walter Morris (Boise 1971)

Walt, 52, died Jan. 23, 2000, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula. He jumped at Boise 1971-73, Missoula 1974-77,'79-80,'84, and Redding in 1994. He was raised in Hamilton, Montana. After graduation from Hamilton High School, he enlisted in the Marine Corps from 1966-68 and served as a rifleman in Vietnam, receiving two Purple Hearts.

Walt graduated from the University of Montana in 1973 with a bachelors in sociology. His love of the outdoors led to a long career in the U.S. Forest Service first as a trail crew member, then smokejumper. Walt volunteered for many years on the ski patrol and loved fishing, hiking, hunting and mountain biking. He retired in August 1997 as an assistant fire management officer for the Bitterroot National Forest.

(end of excerpt)