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9-13-76

3 SOVIET TECHNOLOGISTS VISIT USFS FACILITIES MONDAY

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MISSOULA--

Three Soviet technologists were accompanied Monday by Dr. John Schultz, associate dean of forestry at the University of Montana, during tours of the Northern Forest Fire Laboratory and other U.S. Forest Service facilities west of Missoula.

Schultz represented Dr. Lawrence K. Pettit, commissioner of higher education, on the tours.

According to Schultz, the Russian visitors toured the laboratory and USFS Aerial Fire Depot as part of an information exchange program between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. concerning the use of aviation in agriculture and forestry.

Areas covered during Monday's tour included aerial fire fighting techniques and retardants, cargo-drop operations, crop seeding and fertilizing.

Dr. Mervin Strickler, Washington, D.C., chief of the aviation education division of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Gareth Moon, Montana state forester, representing Gov. Thomas Judge, also accompanied the Soviets on the tour.

Under the information exchange program between the U.S. and U.S.S.R., knowledge gained by U.S. personnel in Russia may aid in the development of aviation education in Montana.

Developments in aviation education programs in the Montana University System are being sought through cooperation with the FAA and existing programs in Montana, including programs at the Northern Forest Fire Laboratory.

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