
Gallatin National Forest News Release



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Contact: Henry Shovic
406-587-6714

MEDIA ADVISORY Forest Service Employee Uses Expertise in Afghanistan

Henry Shovic, Soil Scientist for the Gallatin National Forest, recently returned from a month-long assignment in Afghanistan. Shovic, who worked on the restoration of wild pistachio woodlands, supervised the mapping of pistachio areas (which had not been done for 20 years); recommended planting programs and restoration measures for the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture; and worked and lectured at Kabul University.

Shovic indicated, "This was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I was able to make a difference. Plus, it was exciting to be a part of the world theatre." Forest Supervisor Becki Heath added, "We are pleased that the expertise of our Forest Service employees is being utilized in other parts of the world."

Shovic's assignment was sponsored by the Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service. Pistachios trees grow in the wild, forming a broad band across northern Afghanistan. They are a high-value crop with world-class qualities, but production has been severely reduced because of intensive grazing, soil erosion, destruction by war, cutting for firewood, and removal by foreign agents.

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10 East Babcock Ave., PO Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>