



News from the Forest Service

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Janitorial Services Advertisement

The Mogollon Rim Ranger District is advertising for janitorial services for the upcoming 2008 fiscal year. This contract will begin on October 1, 2007 and go through September 30, 2008 with an option by the Mogollon Rim Ranger District to renew for two more years. Bid packages may be picked up at Blue Ridge Ranger Station beginning August 15, 2007 and completed packages must be turned in no later than August 31, 2007. If you wish to tour the facilities prior to bidding please contact Candy Millener at 928-354-2216, Monday thru Friday.



The contract will include cleaning Happy Jack Ranger Station and out buildings and Blue Ridge Ranger Station and out buildings. There is a separate bid for the Happy Jack Information Center when the new building is in place if services are needed. Services will be required one time per week for all facilities.



This is an article that was sent to me from the National Weather Service in Bellemont. I thought you might be interested in knowing more about the monsoon!

What is the monsoon?

By Mike Staudenmaier, Science and Operations Officer

First, what is meant by the term monsoon? The word “monsoon” is derived from the Arabic word “mausim” which means season. Ancient traders sailing in the Indian Ocean and adjoining Arabian Sea used it to describe a system of alternating winds which blow persistently from the northeast during the northern winter and from the opposite direction, the southwest, during the northern summer. Thus, the term monsoon actually refers solely to a seasonal wind shift and not to precipitation.

Even though the term monsoon was originally defined for the Indian subcontinent, monsoon circulations exist in other locations of the world as well, such as in Europe, Africa, and the west coasts of Chile and the United States. Arizona happens to be located in the area of the United States that experiences a monsoonal circulation. During the summer months, winds shift from a west or northwest direction to a south or southeasterly direction. This allows moisture from the Gulf of California and the Gulf of Mexico to stream into the state. This shift in the winds, or monsoonal circulation, produces a radical change in moisture conditions statewide.

This monsoonal circulation is typically referred to here in Arizona as the Arizona monsoon. What we experience during the summer months, however, is only a small part of a much larger circulation that encompasses not only Arizona, but much of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico.

What is the monsoon continued . . .

What causes the wind shift, or monsoon?

This change in wind direction is the result of two meteorological changes:

One, the movement northward from winter to summer of the huge upper level subtropical high pressure system, specifically known as the Bermuda High, and two, the intense heating of the Mohave Desert creates rising air and surface low pressure, called a thermal low.

These two features combine to create strong southerly flow over Arizona. The southerly low-level winds help to bring in moisture from Mexico, originally coming from a combination of moisture from the Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf of California, and the Pacific Ocean. When this moisture encounters the higher terrain of Arizona, it gets lifted and forms thunderstorms. These thunderstorms can contain very heavy rainfall, hail, strong gusty winds, or a combination of these conditions.

There is no such thing as monsoons. The word should be used the same way that the word “summer” is used. Thus the proper terminology is “monsoon thunderstorms” not “monsoons”. Remember, the monsoon is just a seasonal shift in wind direction. The thunderstorms occur because of the moisture moving over the state from the south.

What are the effects of the monsoon?

The monsoon circulation does not produce thunderstorms every day during the months of July-September, but rather occurs in a pattern that has what are known as “bursts” and “breaks”. During the “bursts” weak disturbances in the upper atmosphere act to focus thunderstorm activity over the state for a period of a few days to more than a week. Occasionally, however, the Bermuda high will become a bit stronger and develops over northwestern Mexico. This leads to “breaks” in the monsoon, where the southerly winds decrease and atmosphere becomes much less likely to allow thunderstorms to develop. This leads to significant decrease in thunderstorm activity, and may last from a day or two to close to a week. This cycle of “bursts” and “breaks” will continue from the onset of the monsoon circulation (typically becoming established near the end of June or the beginning of July, until the time when cold fronts begin to move across the state of Arizona (typically during the month of September), which returns our winds to a westerly or northwesterly direction.



Mogollon Rim Ranger District gets a Face Lift!

In order to have a more efficient work place it has been decided that the office people over at Happy Jack should move over to Blue Ridge Ranger Station. You may have noticed that work has already begun at Blue Ridge Ranger Station. Sometime this fall a large modular will be brought in to house some of the employees from Happy Jack.

The Happy Jack Information Center is going to expand also. Sometime during the first part of October the current office there will be pulled out to make way for a larger office.

So please excuse us during this phase of re-modeling, but it will Be nice when it is all done. Thank you for your patience!!

Until next month,

JEAN GILBERTSON

