



Mogollon Rim Ranger District, Coconino National Forest

## News from the Forest

Edited on: November 21, 2008

### Mogollon Rim Fire Prevention Summary

Here are some interesting statistics that were compiled by our fire prevention folks over the course of summer 2008. I thought you might find it interesting to know what goes on in the forest that surrounds all of us!



- From January to October there were 15 human caused fires.
- 2 Fires on private land
- 47 Lightning Caused Fires
- Over 19,575 contacts were made, double from the year 2007
- 4 Public education events were held with a total audience figure of 750
- 5 Property assessments were conducted with private land owners in the area
- There were 33 violation notices issued
- 31 Warnings

#### VIOLATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST OCCURRENCE'S

- 40 - Leaving a fire without completely extinguishing it
- 14 - ATV violations including Under 18 without a helmet, no eye protection
- 12 - Operating or parking a motor vehicle or trailer except in places developed for this purpose

Our fire prevention organization is a crucial link in public relations. Educating the public about the forest and sharing fire severity information with them in the field encourages our users' healthy land use ethic.

Forest visitation is definitely on the rise, even with the high cost of fuel this past summer. Off-Highway Vehicle use on the district is our fastest growing visitor group, with this group we are continually faced with new challenges.



### Holiday Sale at Blue Ridge Ranger Station

We are currently having a sale through Arizona Natural History Association. All of our merchandise, except maps and items that are priced under \$5.00 are 15% off. The sale began on November 24th and will end on December 31st. We are expecting a new shipment of sweatshirts and we should be getting our 2009 Elk calendars in. There are some wonderful books that will make wonderful Christmas gifts. Please stop by and take a look!



## New OHV Regulations Take Effect January 1, 2009

An effort between OHV enthusiasts, sportsmen, conservationists, elected officials and the public, a new OHV law was signed by Governor Janet Napolitano on June 27, 2008 and will take effect January 1, 2009. The new law will require an annual purchase of an Off-Highway Vehicle Decal for the operation of any ATV or OHV in Arizona.

The OHV decal is a sticker that needs to be purchased annually to allow your OHV to be operated within Arizona. The decal will be displayed in the upper left corner of your license plate that is visibly displayed on the rear of the OHV.

You can purchase the decal online starting January 1, 2009 at [www.servicearizona.com](http://www.servicearizona.com) or at a MVD office. The cost has not been determined yet but will be posted at [www.azgfd.gov/ohv](http://www.azgfd.gov/ohv) when available. The decal is valid for one year and it is the owners responsibility to purchase other years.

## Plastic Bags vs. Reusable Bags....The Facts!



- Each year, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide. That comes out to over one million per minute! Billions end up as litter each year.
- According to The Wall Street Journal, the U.S. goes through 100 billion plastic shopping bags annually. (Estimated cost to retailers is \$4 billion).
- Hundreds of thousands of sea turtles, whales and other marine mammals die every year from eating discarded plastic bags mistaken for food!
- Plastic bags don't biodegrade, they photodegrade—breaking down into smaller and smaller toxic bits contaminating soil and waterways and entering the food web when animals accidentally ingest.
- Windblown plastic bags are so prevalent in Africa that a cottage industry has sprung up harvesting bags and using them to weave hats, and even bags. According to the BBC, one group harvests 30,000 per month.

Almost all grocery and department stores sell reusable shopping bags. They can usually be found right at the checkout. I have purchased several and have stopped using plastic bags all together. It is a habit you have to get into doing, but once you do you will find they are much better than plastic bags. They also are sturdy and won't break! Try it you'll like it! Jeannie

## Christmas Trees

While I am editing this, the tags have not even gone on sale yet. I don't know how many we will have left when the paper gets out, but please feel free to call. We had a total of 500 tags to sell this season.



*I hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season and please enjoy your friends and family.*

*Until next month and next year, Jeannie Gilbertson*