



News from the Forest Service

Edited on: December 26, 2007

Current Road Closures and Snow Play Status

Due to the large snow that we received in December we have closed some of the forest roads.

All gates on the east side of Highway 87 are closed. Gates along both sides of Highway 87 are closed north from the junction of FH3. Gates along the west side of Highway 87 from the south forest boundary north to the junction at FH3 are OPEN.



All gates on the east side of FH3 are closed. Forest road 211 is barricaded near forest road 136, the access road to Clear Creek Pines Unit #1. The east end of forest road 211 is barricaded near forest road 82, the road to Hay Lake and Long Lake. However forest road 82 remains open but travel is very slow and 4 wheel drive is recommended due to very muddy road conditions.

Naturally all of the main access roads into the subdivisions in the area remain open. For all other private property an entry permit is required.



CINCHOOK is open, but will be unstaffed this winter. There are, however port-a-pots and a dumpster in place. The parking area will NOT be plowed, but ADOT will plow some pullouts along the Highway. Please remember that you are on your own while recreating at Cinchook, and please remember the pack-it-in and pack-it-out rules and regulations!

2007 Firewood Season Has Ended



Firewood season on the Coconino National Forest officially ended on December 16th. As in years past, it will re-open the middle of April 2008. We do not have a definite date, we will let you know when we find out.

By next month I should have more answers as to whether or not we are planning to have a winter use cutting area. So please stay tuned!

A Long Time Employee Retires!

On January 3rd, Mike Payne retired from the forest service.



Mike has worked for the forest service since 1977. His career began in Tusayan, AZ near the Grand Canyon. He worked for the Kaibab National Forest from 1977 to 1984. In 1984 he moved to the Coconino National Forest. He has worked for Blue Ridge Ranger Station as our Facilities Manager since then. Mike has been very active serving on Incident Management Teams going to wildland fires all over the country, while continuing his job in facilities. Mike we are all going to miss you a lot and wish you the very best!



Mogollon Rim Ranger District Fire Prevention Statistics for the 2007 Fire Season

At the end of every fire season our lead fire prevention officer tracks various fire statistics such as the number of human caused vs. lightning caused fires, public contacts, and violations with the highest occurrence. This helps us to concentrate on some of the more troubled areas and/or subjects, thus leading us to be more effective at protecting your forest and the people that visit it.

I thought I would share some of these with you. I find them quite interesting and each detection summary has a story to tell!

Wildland Fire Statistics at the Mogollon Rim Ranger District

- 16 - Human caused fires from January to December on Forest Service land.
- 3 - Fires on private land that we responded to.
- 95 - Lightning caused fires.

Public Contacts

- 9,500+ - contacts made by prevention patrols and the lookout towers.
- 4 - Public education events, with a total of 1,800 children and adults.
- 6 - Property assessments conducted with land owners on the district, by the owner's request.

Law Enforcement from Fire Prevention Patrols

- 19 - Violation notices were issued.
- 23 - Warnings were issued.
- 33 - Incident Reports

Violations with the highest occurrence (includes ALL Fire Prevention Patrols)

- 36 - Operating or parking a motor vehicle or trailer except in places developed or designated for this purpose.
- 28 - Leaving a fire without completely extinguishing it.
- 25 - Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire.

A change was noticed over the public perception of the off road area closure the span of the summer. The effort made by district employees to inform the public of the closed area proved to be successful, while there will always be people who disregard the law, the majority of the visitors became competent and complied with the rationale behind the decision. Many comments were positive and in favor of the new closure area. If you have any questions regarding the above statistics please call Andy Pederson at 928-477-2255.

Till next month,

Jean Gilbertson, Editor

