



Mogollon Rim Ranger District, Coconino National Forest

News from the Forest

Edited on: December 22, 2008

Happy New Year!

Thank You



On behalf of ALL the employees on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District a *HUGE* thanks goes out to the Starlighters. They delivered wonderful cookies and sweet delights on the day we had our employee Christmas party. These ladies create absolute magic in their kitchens and we all just love it! Thank you to Arlene Nelson, Naila Irwin and Linda Counsell who played Santa and delivered all of the delicious goodies, and thanks to each and everyone of you for taking time to bake for us. What a treat and we appreciate each and every one of you!



Winter Watches and Warnings

I have often wondered what the difference is between a “Winter Advisory” and a “Winter Storm Warning/Watch” is. I found it on the web and thought I would share with you!

Winter Weather Advisory—When a significant winter storm or hazardous winter weather is occurring, imminent, and is an inconvenience.

Winter Storm Watch— A significant winter weather (i.e., heavy snow, heavy sleet, significant freezing rain, or a combination of events) is expected, but not imminent, for the watch area; provides 12 to 36 hours notice of the possibility of severe winter weather.

Winter Storm Warning—A significant winter storm or hazardous winter weather is occurring, imminent, or likely, and is a threat to life and property.

Blizzard Warning—Winds that are at least 35 mph or greater, blowing snow that will frequently reduce visibility to 1/4 mile or less for at least three hours, and dangerous wind chills are expected in the warning area.

Wind Chill Index—The calculation of temperature that takes into consideration the effects of wind and temperature on the human body. This is not the actual air temperature, but what it feels like to the average person.



Forest Roads

Due to all of the snow that we received in December we had to close all of the forest roads along State Highway 87 and Forest Highway 3. All of the roads on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District along FH3 have been closed and the roads just north of Strawberry along State Highway 87 north approximately to mile post 310 have been closed. Most likely the roads will remain closed throughout the rest of the winter. We do not open them back up until we are assured that no resource damage will be done.

Christmas Tree Season



Christmas tree season on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District was cut quite short this last year by heavy snowfall. We had 500 tags to sell and only sold 245 of them. There were many people from Phoenix that came up just after Thanksgiving and cut their tree. I asked them if their tree(s) would keep until Christmas and most of them said they put it in their swimming pool when they get back to the valley. They said the tree keeps quite well! We will have Christmas tree tags for sale again for Christmas 2009. Please keep this in mind. I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday and enjoyed your tree!!

Cinch Hook Pit Closed to Winter Recreation

The snow play area on State Highway 87 and Highway 260 is CLOSED until further notice. The District wants to provide a quality winter recreation experience for the public but we are unable to offer this at this time due to being under funded and understaffed.

We are currently looking for a concessionaire to manage the area but to this date we have not been successful in finding anyone. In the winter if you travel towards Payson or Camp Verde I am sure you have noticed all of the vehicles parked in the area.



In the interim we are offering an alternate site called Wing Mountain, near Flagstaff. This is managed by a concessionaire. There are pit toilets, a large managed parking lot, food and beverages, including hot chocolate, they also sell sleds. The fee for use is \$10 per car. For conditions at Wing Mountain call 928-226-0493 or visit their website at www.snowplayaz.com.

We are doing the best we can to find a manager for the area, and I will continue to keep you informed of any changes. If you or anyone you know that would be interested in managing the area please call us at 928-477-2255. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



Until next month, keep warm!

Jean Gilbertson, Editor

Please see the letter below from our troops in Iraq. Thanks to all of you who donated to the Mogollon Rim's special Christmas gift to them. We thought it is a very nice letter and certainly do appreciate them taking the time to thank everyone.



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY
123RD Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD)
Joint Base Balad, Iraq
APO AE 09391



Community of Blue Ridge, Arizona
c/o Mogollon Rim Ranger District
HC 31 Box 300
Happy Jack, AZ 86024

Dear Community of Blue Ridge,

Please accept my units sincere thanks for your show of support for our troops! It is so important to our morale to know that the citizens of our great country support us in our efforts over here.

The very generous care packages you sent were well received by the troops. We also took some of the goodies and toiletries out to the Convoy Support Center and passed them out to the troops heading outside the wire. They definitely appreciated the little "pick-me-up" before they headed out into harms way.

Once again, thanks for your efforts on the homefront! They are truly appreciated!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher A. Emmons".

MAJ Christopher Emmons
Commander

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