



## News from the Forest Service

Edited on: June 25, 2006

### NEWS RELEASE

As I write this we are currently in total CLOSURE on the Coconino National Forest, hopefully by the time this newsletter comes out the monsoons will have begun and the closures will have been lifted:

Flagstaff, AZ—As fire danger increases across the Southwest the Coconino National Forest will close to public access and use Friday, morning, June 23, 2006.

Effective Friday, the Coconino National Forest will close to public access. Conditions have warranted closure of the entire national forest. Closures in the past have proven to be an effective means of reducing the number of human-caused fires.

“While campfire and smoking restrictions have been effective in terms of minimizing the number of fires, we are at the point that we cannot afford the risk of *any* human-caused fires,” says Coconino Forest Supervisor Nora Rasure. “Several recent fires have exhibited extreme fire behavior, including the Woody and Brins Fires. We are not only concerned about the risk to communities and natural resources, we are concerned about the potential difficulties evacuating recreationists from remote areas should a wildfire start.”

Included in the closures are:

- All campgrounds, day use picnic areas and cabins on the forest.
- All trails on the Coconino National Forest
- All lakes, including Lake Mary, Ashurst Lake, Kinnikinick Lake, Blue Ridge Reservoir, Knoll Lake and Stoneman Lake.
- All National Forest System Roads will be closed, but all interstates, state and county roads through the Coconino National Forest will remain open.

Entry permits will be granted under complete consideration by the District Ranger and Staff and after an inspection of the vehicle entering the forest. All subdivisions that lead off of State Highway 87: Clear Creek Pines Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, Starlight Pines and Ranchettes, Mogollon Ranch, Blue Ridge and Tameron Estates, Ponderosa Pines, Pine Canyon, and Double Cabin Park will remain open and will not be required to obtain an entry permit.

All Forest Service offices and visitor centers will be open. The closure will be lifted when sufficient precipitation is received to adequately reduce the risk of wildfire to a manageable level, and hot, dry weather conditions are not forecast to continue.

For further information about closures and restrictions in the Coconino National Forest, call 928-226-4601 or toll-free 1-877-864-6985 between 6:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M. Information is posted on the internet at [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino).



## Blue Ridge Urban Interface Project Helps Slow Fire

On June 14, a wildfire broke out just south of Units 3 and 7 at about 1:30 in the afternoon when a tree fell across the powerline that supplies power to the units. The fire, named the Tiny Fire, was approximately 3 acres when fire crews arrived on the scene. Even though winds on the fire were 10 to 20 miles per hour, with gusts to 35 miles per hour, the fire had stopped spreading due to the lack of fuels from thinning and burning efforts that have been implemented with the Blue Ridge Urban Interface Project. The location of the fire was initially burned in 2001, then thinned in 2003 and then burned again in the fall of 2005 to remove the threat of fire from the thinning slash.

This is the second fire that the Blue Ridge Urban Interface project has slowed through fuels reduction efforts. In 2002, the Springer Fire was slowed due to prescribed burning efforts that were implemented just prior to the fire. The Blue Ridge Urban Interface project was designed to reduce fire risk around 10 subdivisions totaling over 1,000 homes located on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. The Decision Notice, signed March 13, 2001, allows for fuel reduction efforts of 10,549 acres of prescribed burning and 8,158 acres of precommercial thinning of ponderosa pine trees.

Until next month,  
Jean Gilabertson  
Editor



