



Mogollon Rim Ranger District

“NEWS BRIEF”

Date: October 15, 2008



Prescribed Burning

We canceled our burns last week due to the wind, and intended to go ahead and continue with burning the East Clear Creek Prescribed Burn today but once again the winds have stopped us. We are going to try to burn East Clear Creek tomorrow. We always have to call Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to place a burn request, today we are going to request 500 acres for tomorrow. This burn will be close to Dane Springs on forest road 321. As with the other burns we have done this year on East Clear Creek the smoke will impact the subdivisions, primarily in the evening hours and early morning. Today fire crews are preparing for the burn tomorrow and reinforcing the fire line, due to the large amount of pine needles and blow downs that occurred last Saturday. Due to hunting season opening up on Friday and the weekend we do not plan to burn again until next week.

Wildland Fire Use Fires Active Again

Due to the strong gusty winds we all experienced last Saturday, October 11th the Yeager and Lost Eden fire have become active again. They are both currently burning “in the black”, this is a term we use when the area has been previously burned. With all the needle cast we have had this fall, there is enough fuel to keep them going!

Fall Colors

With the cold evening temperatures we have been getting the leaves are beginning to show their color a little bit more. Some of our employees who have been out towards the rim have noticed that the maples are not getting brilliant red this year. The leaves are turning orange and falling off the trees. Please see page two, I have included a brief article “Why do Leaves Change Color”, and some pictures that were taken locally yesterday.



Why do Leaves Change Color

The amount and brilliance of the colors that develop in the autumn season are related to weather conditions that occur before and during the time the “chlorophyll” in the leaves is dwindling. Temperature and moisture are the main influences. In early autumn, in response to the shortening days and declining intensity of sunlight, leaves begin the processes leading up to their fall. The veins that carry fluids into and out of the leaf gradually close off as a layer of cells forms at the base of each leaf. These clogged veins trap sugars in the leaf and promote production of “anthocyanins”. Once this separation layer is complete and the connecting tissues are sealed off, the leaf is ready to fall.



*Dane Ridge, Forest Road 321C
Photo taken, October 14, 2008*



*Aspen Tops at the top of Hutch Mountain
Photo taken, October 14, 2008*



*Potato Lake
Photo taken, October 14, 2008*