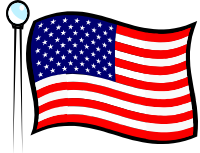




News from the Forest Service

Edited on: August 25, 2004



Happy Labor Day!

I would like to express my appreciation to Larry for filling in for me during my absence. Yes, our Team did get called to Alaska and I feel very fortunate to be able to have gone. It is hard to believe that Alaska could have so many fires burning with all of the water, swamps and lush vegetation that they have! It was a wonderful experience, the country was beautiful and the people were very gracious and could not believe that we came all the way from Arizona to help them in their fire suppression efforts. It was a trip that I will never forget, and I am also glad to be home, as I am sure my family could tell you!

Jean Gilbertson, Editor



County Roads Project

As I am sure many of you have noticed that work has begun on the County Roads leading into Units 3 & 7 and Units 4, 5 & 6. Coconino County has hired a contractor to do this project and the contractor has hired a company to cut the trees and remove the wood. Therefore, the trees that are being cut are NOT available to the public. We have received numerous calls regarding this matter and we would just like to make it clear to everyone that the wood is not available. Signs have been placed at both ends of the project. I know this is an inconvenience for many people but please remember that this is only temporary and when the project has been completed it will be a much more efficient road system, with less dust! Thank you for your patience in this matter and if you have further questions please feel free to contact the Blue Ridge Ranger Station at 477-2255.



School is Back in Session!

Yes, school is back in session, ALREADY! I just wanted to put a reminder in the paper to slow people down and pay closer attention when you are driving. Please obey the stop sign on the bus when it stops to pick up and let the kids off. The kids are excited and have a tendency to not pay attention to other traffic around them. We need to be their extra set of eyes and ears! Thank you for your alertness!

Help Needed!

The Mogollon Rim Ranger District will be accepting bids for cleaning the Blue Ridge and Happy Jack District Office's for Fiscal Year 2005. The date to accept these sealed bids will be September 7th thru September 17th. If you have any questions please call 477-2255.

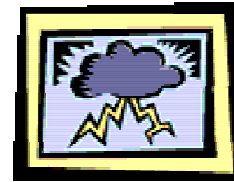


LOST!

One of our volunteer's lost his tool box. He set it on the bumper of his truck, and drove onto Highway 87. He believes it fell off somewhere near the Blue Ridge District Office. If you happen to know its whereabouts please call 477-2255.

What is the Most Dangerous Weather Event in Terms of Lives Lost?

Lightning! Follow these rules and it may save your life:



stay in-

- Keep an eye on the sky and when a thunderstorm threatens, doors or an enclosed vehicle.
- Do NOT use the telephone except for emergencies.
- If you get caught outside, avoid tall, isolated trees and utility poles. Avoid projecting above the landscape; don't stand on a hilltop. In a forest seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees. In open areas go to a low place such as a ravine or valley.
- Get off and away from water. Avoid tractors, farm equipment, motorcycles, golf carts and other metal vehicles. Avoid lines, wire fences, metal pipes and other railings. Put down golf clubs. If you are in a group, stay apart.
- If you are in an enclosed building, close all windows. Lightning follows air currents.

MONSOON FACTS AND FIGURES

Average Date of Monsoon Beginning	July 7th
In 2 out of 3 years the monsoon begins	July 1 –16
Earliest Monsoon Beginning	June 16, 1925
Latest Monsoon Beginning	July 25, 1987
Average date of first break in Monsoon	August 16th
Average total number of monsoon days	56
Greatest number of monsoon days on record	99 in 1984
Greatest number of consecutive monsoon days	72 in 1984
Least number of monsoon days on record	27 in 1962
Average monsoon rainfall	2.45 inches

Statistically, it is considered a "monsoon day" when the average daily dew point is 55 degrees or higher. When the weather forecast calls for thundershowers or thunderstorms, take it seriously. It means that lightning is possible. Lightning kills 125 people on the average every year in the United States and injures over 500. We have had a good monsoon season in our area for this year, however the monsoon is most pronounced in southern Arizona and becomes more marginal over northern Arizona. The end of our wonderful monsoons normally comes in the latter half of September state wide. Not much longer folks!



Fossil Creek Restoration & Childs-Irving Hydropower Decommissioning Project

Fast approaching is the beginning of the Childs-Irving power plant decommissioning process and preparation for restoring natural water flow to Fossil Creek. For nearly a century 95% of the stream flow has been diverted from Fossil Creek within a 1/4 mile of its spring-based origin by a dam to supply two hydroelectric power plants at Irving and Childs.

In 1999, Arizona Public Service (APS) took a bold step and, in partnership with numerous conservation groups, agreed to "decommission" the Childs-Irving hydroelectric facilities. Arizona Public Service (APS) felt that this was a rare opportunity to return the area to its original, unique condition. APS will begin the process of removing hydroelectric facilities this fall and full flows will be returned to Fossil Creek by the end of 2004.

Prior to the return of full flows, research and monitoring will be on-going to help determine the effects of this unique opportunity to restore a free-flowing creek.