



News from the Forest Service

Edited on: March 23, 2007



Discovery Channel Telescope Update

Lowell Observatory recently announced a \$5 million contribution from the John and Maureen Hendricks family in support of the Discovery Channel Telescope (DCT). This is in addition to the \$1 million dollars they contributed to the DCT.

Mr. Hendricks is the founder and Chairman of Discovery Communications. A member of the Lowell Observatory Advisory Board for more than a decade. "In recognition of this generous gift, the existing Planetary Research Center at Lowell Observatory will be renamed the Hendricks Center for Planetary Studies," said Lowell Trustee William Lowell Putnam. Mr. Putnam also said that while the Observatory remains open to the possibility of an additional university or observatory partner in the project, such a partner is no longer essential to completion of the telescope in 2010.

Currently the telescope's 14-foot diameter primary mirror, built by Corning Inc. in Canton, New York is being figured and polished to its precise final shape by the College of Optical Sciences at the University of Arizona in Tucson. The second phase is planned after the telescope is fully operational and would add a state-of-the-art prime focus camera to the telescope. With the addition of a \$10 million camera, the telescope is expected to be one of the most effective asteroid trackers in the world.

According to Lowell Director, Bob Millis, the Discovery Channel Telescope will be applied to a variety of research topics spanning the gamut of modern astrophysics and planetary science. Of particular near-term interest are studies of distant bodies in our solar system including Pluto and its trans-Neptunian neighbors, searches for planets orbiting other stars. And investigations of how stars form in our own galaxy and beyond.

This has been a very exciting and rewarding project for the Mogollon Rim Ranger District certainly not excluding the local community of Happy Jack! We are excited that a project such as this, that is so immense, will be a large economic boost! According to a study by the Center for Business Outreach at Northern Arizona University. The Discovery Channel Telescope will increase Arizona's economic output by more than \$576 million over its 50-year expected useful lifetime! Wow!

If you are interested in viewing any of the Discovery Channel sites they are listed below:



Telescope web-



Time for Lot Cleaning!

Now is the right time to do some lot cleaning, pruning and just general firewise work around your home.

Spring has arrived and early spring is a great time to get out in the yard and clean up all those dead fuels around your home.

We sure can't predict what type of fire season we are going to have this summer but it never hurts to be prepared, and while the temperatures are still cool, it sure proves to be a great time to rake and prune your trees!

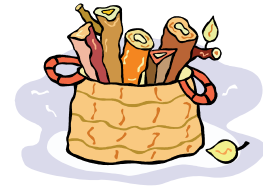
New Arrivals at the Blue Ridge Gift Shop!

You **MUST** come see the new finger puppets for sale at Blue Ridge Ranger Station. We have bats, squirrels, mice, dragon flies, butterflies, and much more! They are really cute very reasonably priced and would make excellent Easter basket gifts. We also have received a new shipment of tee shirts, sweat shirts and hats. As always we have books, and just received some new titles also.



Due to higher printing costs we have been instructed to raise the price on all National Forest maps. The maps are a very nice quality, and the Coconino National Forest maps are plastic coated and they now show all of the hunt units. The maps were previously priced at \$7.00 each and now sell for \$10.00 each. We have a large

April is Tax and Wood Cutting Month!



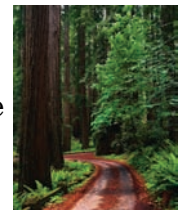
They seem to blend right together don't they? Taxes are due April 15th and firewood cutting season begins April 14th!

There are no new changes this year, with the exception of more free use wood cutting areas. It is still \$5 per cord, with a minimum purchase of 4 cords, thus \$20. You may cut any wood that is dead and down with your permit. There are some species that you may cut dead standing, there will be specific do's and don'ts for dead standing trees and these will all be listed in the firewood guide you receive when you purchase your permit.

You may purchase up to 10 cords of wood per firewood cutting season, but please remember it is **ALWAYS** a minimum purchase of 4 cords. Before you come in think ahead and make sure you are getting enough cords to get you through next winter.

Forest Roads

Very slowly we have been able to re-open forest roads that were closed due to weather this past winter. At this time we are still not able to open the two most popular roads on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District, FR95 and FR300 (Rim Road). We have re-opened the road to Blue Ridge Reservoir, so the anglers can get in!



Happy Easter,
Until next month, Jean Gilbertson
Editor