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NEWSLETTER

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News from the Forest Service

Mogollon Rim Ranger District, Coconino National Forest

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District Ranger's 2008 Reflections



As I reflect on the many accomplishments on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District in 2008, I'm also reminded of the many worthwhile projects still needing to be done. With costs steadily rising and budgets static as the nation works through these tough economic times, an old adage comes to mind: "Through every adversity comes a seed of an equal or greater benefit." Our "seed" is in our employees, local community, and partners. That seed must be planted and nurtured in order to produce the harvest.

In 2008 the Mogollon Rim Ranger District harvested a significant "crop" of accomplishments. Here are a few community and partner contributions:

- *Volunteers contributed time equaling nearly 5 full time employees to our recreation, wildlife, watershed, business, and facilities programs.*
- *The Blue Ridge community organized several meetings to inform and engage locals in the Travel Management Rule planning project.*
- *Fire personnel, working cooperatively with the Blue Ridge and Pine Strawberry Fire Departments and Gila County, successfully controlled and managed over 60 wildfires.*
- *ADOT, APS, TDS, Coconino County, and Salt River Project improved their facilities that serve the public.*
- *Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Parks, National Resource Conservation Service, Arizona Elk Society, and livestock permittees funded and supported projects totaling over \$300,000.*
- *Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Salt River Project, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Town of Payson joined the Forest Service for a "National Get Outdoors Day" event at C. C. Cragin (Blue Ridge) Reservoir.*
- *The local community discussed ongoing Forest Service projects with district employees at a district Open House held at the Starlight Pines Community Center.*
- *Campers from nearby Camp Colley maintained trails, picked up litter, and removed crayfish from East Clear Creek.*

Finding creative ways to accomplish our work has never been more necessary. Along with our dedicated, hard working, community-minded district employees, we will again engage interested citizens in 2009 to accomplish the important work we do on the Coconino National Forest.



Go Green How to Conserve Water Indoors

World Water Day was celebrated on March 22nd. On behalf of American Water and Energy Savers, here are some tips to conserve:

- Never put water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering a plant or garden, or cleaning.
- Verify that your home is leak-free because many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects, and other such waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
- Don't let water run while shaving or washing your face. Brush your teeth first while waiting for water to get hot, then wash or shave after filling the basin.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slow-moving stream from the faucet.
- Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the tap run every time you want a cool glass of water.
- Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year which will add to the cost of water and sewer utilities or strain your septic system.
- Insulate your water pipes. You'll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.

Firewood Permits

April 18th you may begin cutting firewood again. We will begin selling wood permits on Friday, April 17th; however, you will not be permitted to go cut wood until Saturday the 18th. Keep in mind most of our forest roads are still closed. There are still some deep snow drifts on a lot of our roads. Any questions, feel free to call us at 928-477-2255.



Access to Long Lake OPEN!



We have been able to open Forest Road 211 and Forest Road 82, the road to Long Lake. We have also heard that the fishing is excellent. Some folks have been catching large trout.

As late winter weather continues and spring precipitation approaches, the forest will likely transition from winter road closures to the Wet Weather Road System. The system will open some major forest roads to allow forest access while continuing restrictions on cross-country travel and many secondary roads not engineered to sustain motorized use when saturated. Signs with maps will be posted across the forest. All road closures are temporary. Most roads will be kept closed until they are dry enough for forest managers to reopen around the end of April



Until next month,

Happy Easter!
Jean Gilbertson, Editor