



News from the Forest Service

Edited on: November 22, 2005



*:From the Employees at the Mogollon Rim
Ranger District!*

Thanks!

Christmas Tree Decorating on the Coconino National Forest



On behalf of the employees at the Mogollon Rim Ranger District, we would like to say thank you for your understanding while we conducted our prescribed burning this fall, we burned 13,000 acres. We received very few calls of complaints. Most of our phone calls were just inquiries. Thank you VERY much!

Jeannie

Firewood Season Nears the End

Believe it or not firewood cutting season is just about over for the 2005 season! It officially ends on December 18th. We hope that everyone who uses firewood for heating their homes got their winter supply in. We had an abundance of downed oak and juniper this year, due to the snow fall last winter. We will just have to wait and see what winter of 2006 brings. In the meantime if you did not get your winter wood supply in we will be offering a free use wood cutting permit at Little Bly Pit this year. There seems to be a lot of good firewood discarded there, and we want to give those in need of wood to get it before we burn it. If you have questions call 477-2255.

Why not decorate Christmas trees on National Forest lands?

1. **SAFETY** is of the most concern with the potential for creating an accident along roadways during decorating activities. Decorating often occurs in the late evening or early morning hours when visibility is poor and often in dangerous pull off locations.
2. **VISUALLY**, decorated trees can be distracting and take away from the natural scenic beauty of the scenic landscape, especially given a federally designated Scenic Byway.
3. Potentially, decorations can become a nuisance to **wildlife** where entanglement or ingestion problems may occur.
4. Last but not least, **LITTER**. Litter may become windblown. Decorations are often cleaned up by volunteers, not those who decorated the trees!

I know most of the people that live in the Blue Ridge area do NOT do this, but we did want everyone to be aware that it is not permitted.

Christmas Shopping at Blue Ridge!



Are you interested in owning or giving a "Coconino National Forest" tee shirt for Christmas? Stop by Blue Ridge Ranger Station and check them out! We also have some beautifully designed gourds by one of our local camp hosts.



Some Very Interesting Statistics

Darryl Atchison and his fire prevention team compiled some very interesting statistics regarding public use on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District. Darryl does this every summer so we have some great comparisons from one year to another. We found the statistics he gathered this year to be quite interesting so we wanted to share them with the local folks, who we hope find them interesting also. It tells quite a story!

Month	ATV Contacts	Camping Activities	Initial Attack Fires	Campfire Education	Wood Cutting	Customer Help	Public Accidents	Law Activities	Other
April	2	112		53	2	15		2	12
May	713	3049	9	1352	16	300	3	65	222
June	725	1646	8	842	36	158	4	28	83
July	1120	2371	30	1087	28	123	2	62	165
August	1175	1569	11	658	8	67	1	35	88
September	976	1284	3	387	8	57	3	20	84
October	47	66		7	1	10			20

	ATV Contacts	Camping Activities	Initial Attack Fires	Campfire Education	Wood Cutting	Customer Help	Public Accidents	Law Activities	Other
Total 2003	1886	3876	265	2395	68	818	14	134	906
Total 2004	4465	8089	103	5034	53	878	4	153	840
Total 2005	5328	11097	71	4766	95	730	13	234	741

Keep in mind that these visitor figures are only a small percentage of the people that visit us. There is no way we could possibly contact everyone, but this gives us an idea of the kind of public use on our District.

Initial Attack Fires = Wildfire Suppression, Abandoned Campfires

Accidents = Vehicle, ATV and Equestrian

Law = Violations, Warnings, Incident Reports

Other = Association Meetings, Group Talks, Boy Scouts, Firewise, Trash Sites, Property Inspections, Game & Fish Assistance, Search & Rescue, School Programs

Baker Butte, Moqui, Buck Mountain and Hutch had a total of 6,000+ visitors!

Till next month, and next year!

Jean Gilbertson

