



News from the Forest Service

Edited on: January 25, 2006

We Have a New District Ranger!

On January 25th we received a phone call from our Forest Supervisor, Nora Rasure announcing the selection of Mindee Roth, the new District Ranger for the Mogollon Rim Ranger District.

Mindee has been serving as the District Recreation Staff Officer on the Santa Catalina Ranger District on the Coronado National Forest since 1998. During this time she has been the program manager for developed and dispersed recreation, wilderness, trails, OHV management, visitor information and the recreation fee project on a busy, urban ranger district. While on the Coronado, Mindee has also completed assignments as the Acting District Ranger on the Safford Ranger District and Acting Forest Recreation Program Leader.

Prior to her assignment on the Coronado, Mindee was the Ecosystem Planner on the Prescott National Forest from 1994 into 1998. She was the planning team leader for range, special-uses, forest health, fuels, recreation and wilderness projects. Mindee has also served as a Range Conservationist on the Prescott between 1988 and 1995.

Mindee has also worked as a Range Conservationist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management.

She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture-Range Management from the University of Arizona.

Please give Mindee a warm welcome!

Interested in Starting a "Friends of the Forest" Group?

Interested in starting a Mogollon Rim "Friends of the Forest" group? A non-profit, tax exempt organization can be organized to further the goals and objectives of the National Forest System. These associations develop and manage volunteer programs on the forest, develop educational materials, solicit funds for their purposes, and can sell interpretative materials. To see what a "Friends of the Forest" organization is all about, explore the Sedona Friends of the Forest, Inc. web site at: <http://www.friendsoftheforestssedona.org/>.



There is a Grant Opportunity offered by the National Forest Foundation Community Assistance Program, where newly forming "friends" organizations can apply for start-up grants of \$5,000-\$15,000 to meet organizational, and capacity-building, and technical assistance needs. For example, the money could be used to obtain non-profit status. Proposals are due April 28, 2006 with final decisions in June. For information about this Grant Opportunity, go to: http://www.natforests.org/consp_05_cap.html.

For further information about how you can start a Friends of the Forest Group, or apply for the grant, please contact Polly Haessig, Partnership Coordinator at the Mogollon Rim District, 928-477-2255.



We Need YOUR Help!

The reception area at Blue Ridge Ranger Station could sure use some volunteer help this coming summer.

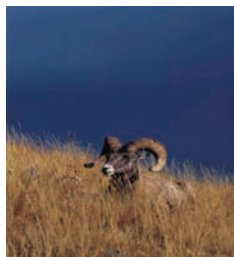
With the lack of moisture there is a strong possibility that we could be in for a severe wild-fire season. Two of us from the reception area have committed to the Northern Arizona Type II Management Team, and chances are we will be gone on fire assignments quite a bit.

Our main receptionist will be busy taking on additional duties in our absence and she will definitely be needing some help in answering the telephones and assisting the public with their needs. We would very much appreciate help from May 1 through September 1.

If you are interested, please contact Jean Gilbertson at 477-2255. Thank you for your consideration.

Bighorn Sheep Update

A telemetry flight was conducted on December 15, 2005, and ten of the twelve collared Bighorn Sheep were located! Previous flight results suggest that the two sheep (both ewes) not located may be together. The ram and ewe that were not located on the last flight were located south of Highway 260 in Sandrock Canyon. The other ram was south of the release site in the flats, but north of Highway 260. Three ewes were located around Black mountain near Devil's Windpipe. This area is north of Highway 260 and south of West Clear Creek.



There was one mortality located near the release site, and was recovered. The rest of the locations were in West Clear Creek within three miles of the release site. The one ewe located in Walker Basin (north of West Clear Creek) returned to West Clear Creek. Another ewe that was south of Highway 260 on the last flight had crossed back over to the north side.

There have also been reports of sheep west of I-17 towards Sedona and also North of Payson. In your travels....be on the lookout, this is rather exciting news for our area!

Knoll Lake Campground Renovation



Capital Improvements Construction will begin major campground renovation at Knoll Lake campground in May. Therefore the campground will not be open for camping during the 2006 summer season.

Re-construction will be similar to what was done at Rock Crossing Campground last summer. The lake will remain open to public use, except for a very short period later in the project when toilet and road construction is occurring.

If you have further questions please feel free to call Blue Ridge Ranger Station at 928-477-2255 or the Happy Jack Information Center at 928-477-2172.

Hazard Travel on Rim Road

Travel on the Rim Road between Forest Roads 141 and 123 has become *extremely* dangerous. Since the Packrat fire in 2002 there are many unstable standing trees and tree tops. These trees are falling across the Rim Road, Forest Road 300. You may still travel the rim road by taking a small detour to avoid this area. Take Highway 87 to FR 300 to FR 141, turn off on FR141, follow it to 141H back over to the Rim Road, FR 300, thus avoiding this dangerous area. Any questions please call Blue Ridge at 477-2255.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Till next month,

Jean Gilbertson
Editor



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