

Mogollon Rim Ranger District, Coconino National Forest



News from the Forest Service

Edited on: December 21, 2006



Thank You Starlighters!

Thank you Starlighters for the holiday baked goods! It's not often forest employees experience such a showing of appreciation. Each year, the Starlighters take the time to find out when our holiday party is planned and arrive singing carols and carrying a huge assortment of desserts to kick off the festivities. On behalf of all the district employees, I thank you. I hope your holidays were as bright and cheerful as you made ours!

Mindee Roth, District Ranger

Volunteer Help needed for Cinch Hook Area

It has been decided that Cinch Hook Snow area will open when there is 10 inches of snow or more, any less it will be closed. Forest service employees are signing up on a "on call" basis to ensure that all safety and sanitation standards are met. Cinch Hook snow area will only allow inflatable or lightweight plastic sledding devices. Snowboards, skis, wood or metal sledding devices, jump, ramp or berm building will not be allowed.

If you are interest in volunteering your services at Cinch Hook please call Rose Harley at 928-477-2255. Come out and play in the snow, we appreciate your consideration.



Christmas Tree Sales Update

I thought that some of you in our local community might enjoy knowing how we did with Christmas tree sales this year. Just as we expected we sold out quick, as a matter of fact all 500 tags were gone the first week they went on sale! Since we started this program every year we sell out faster. Talking to the folks that went out and cut their tree this year, they said their family had fun and plan to come back next year. You might want to keep this in mind when trees go on sale again next year. The sooner you can get to the Blue Ridge office or the Happy Jack Information Center the better your chances in securing a tree tag. I will remind you when the time rolls around next year.

Firewood Season Comes to an End

Firewood cutting season ended on December 17th and will not resume until sometime in the middle of April 2007. I hope everyone was able to get their required amount of wood in for the winter.

There is a possibility we may have a winter firewood cutting area in case you run out. We will keep you posted, or call 928-477-2255.





Winter Weather Survival

As we all know living at a high altitude brings cold weather and snow! I personally feel that going over winter weather survival is a good reminder to all of us, as some of us tend to get a bit complacent over the years. Below are some tips that were compiled by the Coconino County Sheriff's Office and Coconino County Search and

Rescue. First and foremost remember when you plan an out of town trip, out of state trip or just a local outing be sure to inform a friend or relative of your intended route, destination and estimated travel and arrival times. Then assemble a vehicle disaster supplies kit containing:

- First aid kit and essential medications
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio (if you have one), flashlight, and extra batteries
- Canned food and can opener
- Bottled water (at least one gallon of water per person per day to last at least 3 days)
- Extra warm clothing, including boots, gloves and a hat
- Have your car winterized before winter season
- Fill your tank whenever possible
- Carry a cell phone with extra batteries and signaling devices such as a mirror, road flares and brightly colored flags that are visible from the air
- Properly fitting tire chains
- Jumper cables
- Plastic bags
- Wooden matches (sealed in a waterproof container)
- Duct tape
- Snack food (high calorie, non-perishable)
- Paper Towels
- An empty can with cover and tissues for sanitary purposes
- Sack of sand (or kitty litter) for traction
- Basic tool kit
- Tow rope
- Compass and GPS
- Road Maps
- Snow Scraper

Always stay tuned for storm warnings and remember if you do get stuck:

- ALWAYS stay with your car. This is very important! It provides excellent temporary shelter and makes easier for rescuers to find you. Do not try to walk to safety!
- Tie a brightly colored cloth (preferably red) to your antenna
- Start the car and use the heater for about 10 minutes every hour. Keep the exhaust pipe clear so fumes won't back up in the car.
- Leave the overhead light on when the engine is running so that you can be seen
- As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to keep blood circulating and to stay warm
- Use whatever is available to insulate your body from the cold. This could include floor mats, newspapers, or paper maps

BE SAFE OUT THERE!

Happy New Year!
Until next month, Jean Gilbertson, Editor