



## News from the Forest Service



Edited on: February 24, 2009

### Cinch Hook Permanently Closed

As the years progress, word of the Cinch Hook gravel pit also progresses, especially when we receive a generous amount of snow. At the forest service, we have been faced with some extreme challenges this winter at Cinch Hook. Due to liability issues, a decision was made to keep it closed for the 2008-2009 winter season. We then received a large amount of snow over the Christmas holiday and the public displayed their disagreement with our decision and ignored the locked gate. There were vehicles lined up and down Highway 87 and Highway 260 and people out on the highway. It was an accident waiting to happen, we decided to open the gate to help alleviate the parking congestion along the highways.



Along with some help from DPS and ADOT it did help for awhile. Due to the large crowds we were getting it was decided we needed to provide trash receptacles and port-a-pots. This did not work, some people were using the trash bin, but there was A LOT of trash disposed of on the ground, and the port-a-pots seemed to make good shooting targets. There were numerous personal injuries, one person was even hit by a vehicle in the parking area.

There was much discussion about how we were going to manage this big problem we had. We concluded the only way to *safely* manage the area is to hire a concessionaire. A concessionaire would be able to keep the parking area cleared of snow, keep the area free from trash, and be there in case of an injury. There is a lot involved in becoming a concessionaire, and we hope that we can find someone eligible before winter 2009-2010.

Thus we have swung the gate and locked it for the remainder of this winter and we thank you for your understanding and cooperation. I will continue to keep you informed as things progress.

### New APS Toll Free Number



A special note from APS: The APS Call Center is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This number should be used to report power outages and to receive updates on the restoration of power in the event of an outage. The APS Call Center can also provide answers to our customers on all energy needs.

**1-800-253-9405**



## Forest Service Vehicle Auction

Our next vehicle auction will be April 14th in Tucson and will be handled by Manhiem Auto Auction. As of now a time has not been set.

Once GSA (General Services Administration) completes the required paperwork they will include the auction in their GSA auction web site. Once you are at the website go to the upper right corner and select Arizona, the site will show you all of the GSA auctions scheduled in Arizona. Click on our auction and a list will open showing all of the vehicles scheduled to be sold at the auction. The web-site address is: <http://gsaauctions.gov/gsaauctions/gsaauctions>

## March is go Green Month!



- Minimize energy used in your home. Make windows and doors well sealed with caulking and weather stripping.
- Switch to electronic banking and credit card payment.
- Add insulation to attic, exterior wall, and crawl spaces.
- Fan the heat around. Run the ceiling fan clockwise at a slow speed to re-circulate warmer air that collects at the ceiling.
- Use left over bubble wrap by placing it inside windows to act as an insulator.
- Go paperless. Distribute company information and post company material online.
- Clean your shower head periodically; scaling and sediment can collect and reduce water flow, using more hot water than needed.
- Make sure that your heating system is running efficiently. A small maintenance bill can save you the cost of replacing the whole unit!
- Save energy and boil faster. Measure out the right amount of water needed. It takes extra energy to boil too much water.
- Check your tire pressure—For every 5 degrees Celsius the temperature goes down, the air pressure, in your tires reduces by one pound per square foot. Keep tabs on your tires for easy riding.

## Tidbits of Info



Forest roads are still closed and will remain closed until the snow is gone and the road beds dry out.

No official date for the beginning of fuelwood cutting season. It usually begins the middle of April. I will know more in next months newsletter.

As our weather is warming up the elk are moving back up to higher ground. Pay close attention when you are driving. On my way to work I have seen several of them.

*Happy St. Patrick's Day*

*Spring is right around the corner, start thinking of planting, I am and I am ready for some nice warm weather too!*

*Till next month,*

*Jean Gilbertson  
Editor*

