



News from the Forest Service

Edited on: September 20, 2005

Farewell from the Ranger



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Hello Neighbors,

By the time you read this I will have retired from the Forest Service after 35+ year career. My retirement was effective on October 1. I have loved working for the Forest Service since my first summer job with them in 1967 on the Chemult Ranger District of the Winema National Forest in Oregon. Since then, my career has included stints on the Mt. Hood National Forest (Oregon), the Kootenai National Forest (Montana), the Beaverhead National Forest (Montana), the Gallatin National Forest (Montana), the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest (Arkansas) and, finally, here. I have especially loved serving as your District Ranger here on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest for the past 7 years. I can truthfully say that I enjoy my job as much now (or more) than ever before in my career. The Forest Service is a great agency to work for and Forest Service employees are some of the best people you could ever hope to work with. I will miss it and them tremendously.....and that is the way it should be!

I am leaving the District in good hands even though my permanent replacement will not be selected for a couple of months. By the time you read this the Forest Supervisor will have selected and placed someone to be the Acting District Ranger for up to 120 days or until a new ranger is named after a nationwide search is completed. I wish I could tell you who it is but the decision was not made by the time this letter had to go to press. Meanwhile, we are blessed with a very strong District organization and competent staff that will continue to keep programs moving.

My decision to leave now reflects a desire to free up time and energy for me to pursue other interests involving home, family, church and business. Norell and I (and sons John and Brian) will be staying here in the community. I expect to have more time to enjoy the forests, canyons and trails of northern Arizona, time to travel, time to volunteer for the Forest Service and other worthy causes and more time to serve in our Blue Ridge Community Church.

I have appreciated the fantastic community support shown to me and the Forest Service for our many programs and projects. Thank you very much!

Larry G. Sears
Retired District Ranger



Little Bly Pit

We would like to recognize some of our good neighbors who graciously volunteered their time this summer to help manage Little Bly Pit.

- Jesse & Candyce Schmid
- Tom & Linda McMorine
- Dean & Sibyl Dunlap

They worked during the busy weekends directing people dumping slash, and making it so much easier for us to pile. Most importantly preventing an undesired ignition during the very high fire conditions we experienced this summer. These six people collectively donated approximately 90 hours of their time. The Mogollon Rim Ranger District extends a great big

THANK YOU!

Fall Brings, You Know.....Prescribed Burning!

Well as summer winds down it is the time of year we begin our prescribed burning.

We are planning to burn about 10,000 acres this fall with most of the burning occurring in the month of October. We have three main projects:

- Pocket Baker—Is located around the junction of Highway 260 and Highway 87. We will be burning a total of 4,000 acres on this project. We have been burning on this project for the past 3 years, and most of the burning will be centered around the Baker Butte and Twenty Nine Mile Lake area.
- Bald Mesa—Bald Mesa is scheduled to begin this fall and it involves burning around Clear Creek Pines Units 1 & 2. We will be burning approximately 4,500 acres on this project.
- Blue Ridge Urban Interface—So far we are scheduled to burn approximately 1,500 acres on this project. Most of the burning will occur west of Clear Creek Pines Units 3 & 7, towards Forest Road 211.

Please remember that all burns will depend on weather and approvals from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

Thank you in advance for putting up with the smoke and please remember to slow down when smoke impairs visibility of roadways, for your own safety as well as our personnel implementing the burns.



If you have any questions please contact the Blue Ridge office (928) 477-2255 and ask for Jeff Thumm.

Till next month, Jean Gilbertson, Editor