



NEWS RELEASE

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Ely Ranger District
825 Ave E
Ely, Nevada 89301

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For Release on April 28, 2009 - Stop Date is May 16, 2009

Forest Service Staff Visit White Pine County Schools Last Week

Ely, Nevada...Ely Ranger District's fire and wilderness staff hosted a series of programs to every elementary school in White Pine County last week. Over 200 school children from kindergarten through fifth grade learned about the following Forest topics at the Baker/Garrison, McGill/Ruth, Lund, and Ely venues:

- Smokey Bear and fire prevention;
- The difference between human-caused fires and prescribed fires (prescribed fires are conducted only after completing a comprehensive planning process, and are used to reduce the risk of wildfires on a National Forest area by removing overgrown vegetation, and improving the habitat for wildlife);
- The many uses of the forest, such as collecting pinyon pine seeds and firewood (some activities require collection permits that can be readily obtained from your local Ranger District office in Ely);
- What makes a healthy ecosystem and forest management activities that are used to improve its ecosystems (such as removing dead-and-down woody material that may cause wildfires, and planting trees to speed the growth of a forest after a wildfire);
- What "Leave No Trace" skills and principles are (the importance of understanding what impacts a forest's natural resources and being "light on the land"); and,
- What a Wilderness area is (a congressionally designated area that can be simply characterized as a rare and wild places).



Courtney Christensen and Smokey talking about Fire Prevention to a group of young students.



Jimmy Flanagan and Smokey meet and greet students in a school gymnasium.

Please contact District Ranger Jose Noriega at 775-289-3031, or Recreation Specialist Joshua Simpson at 775-289-5129, with any questions or concerns regarding this release or visit our agency website at www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf.

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