

# San Juan Public Lands People



*News of and for current and past San Juan Public Lands employees & partners*



Fall 2008

## Dunkelberger is New Associate/Deputy

**DURANGO** - Bill Dunkelberger will become the San Juan's new Associate BLM Center Manager/Deputy NF Supervisor this fall. Bill comes from the BLM Field Office in Bishop, California, where he was Field Office Manager and helped the BLM and Inyo NF implement a Service-First partnership.

"Bill has a strong reputation as a great person with whom to work, a team builder, and a great communicator," says Mark Stiles, San Juan NF Supervisor/BLM Field Office Manager.

Bill holds a degree in Recreation and Park Administration from Washington State University. After graduation, he worked as an outdoor education coordinator at the University of Idaho and as a wilderness ranger on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF.

Bill moved to Colorado in 1982 to teach skiing and managed the Telluride Nordic Ski Center for eight winters. During summers, he worked as a USFS seasonal in Washington State and on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison NFs (affectionately known in USFS circles as the GMUG). In the 1990s, Bill was promoted to Assistant District Recreation Staff on the GMUG and then Recreation Staff Officer. He also managed the Matterhorn Work Center near Lizardhead Pass, several wilderness and recreation areas, a wide variety of outfitter-guide permits, and was permit administrator for Telluride Ski Resort.

Bill went on to manage a National Recreation Area on the Arapaho-Roosevelt NF adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park, before moving to Bishop in 2002.

"I'm excited about returning to Colorado and working with local communities and the talented employees of the Public Lands Center to sustain responsive stewardship in the San Juans," Bill says.

Bill, his wife Deb, a nurse practitioner, and son Liam enjoy travel and outdoor sports of all kinds.

- Ann Bond,  
Public Affairs Specialist



(Left to right) Former San Juan NF Supervisor/BLM Center Manager Cal Joyner, shown with Pauline Ellis and Richard Speegle, dropped by to enjoy the social hour at the San Juan Mountains Association Annual Volunteer Appreciation picnic in August.

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## PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS



## Pauline's in Travel Management

**DURANGO** - Pauline Ellis, Columbine District Ranger/Field Office Manager for the past seven years, has taken on the role of Travel Management/Partnerships Coordinator in the PLC.

The Leadership Team identified the new travel-management position as necessary to meet the requirements of the USFS Travel Management Rule and catch up with management and resource issues.

PLC Engineer Mary Blanchard, who has been carrying the travel-management ball for the past year, will remain involved, but Pauline will take the day-to-day lead.

Pauline will also assume partnership responsibilities to keep up with the San Juan's expanding partnership workload.

"Pauline is obviously a great choice to fill this role," said Mark Stiles, San Juan NF Supervisor/Field Office Manager. "She's an engineer who understands the construction and maintenance issues of our roads and trails. She has a strong background in recreation management, and knows our lands and publics very well."

- Ann Bond

## Stacy's New in Admin

**DURANGO** - Stacy Jordan is the San Juan's new BLM Property and Fleet Management Assistant in charge of property, fleet management, and other administrative duties at the PLC.

She comes from Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she most recently worked as Investigative Technician in the BLM Office of Law Enforcement and Security. Prior to that, she was BLM Staff Assistant for the New Mexico State Office Division of Minerals.

Earlier in her BLM career, Stacy worked for the BLM Moab Field Office as Administrative Assistant, Information Receptionist, and Recreation Aide.

Stacy was taking classes at Santa Fe Community College and is transferring her credits to Fort Lewis College so that she can continue pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

- Ann Bond



## Jennifer Receives Pinchot Award

**DURANGO** - San Juan Landscape Architect Jennifer Burns has been selected to receive the USFS Gifford Pinchot Excellence in Interpretation and Conservation Education Award. She was honored for providing high-quality interpretive products and services, both in her previous role as Landscape Architect on the Arapaho and Roosevelt NFs, and in her current position on the San Juan.

Jennifer is known for taking the lead in emphasizing the preservation of open space and conservation of water resources in the development of



visitor information and interpretive panels.

"Jennifer is regarded as an expert in meshing landscapes and their stories to the interests of visitors to creating a sense of place that connects visitors to the land," says Thurman Wilson, San Juan Associate Center Manager. "She is passionate about developing a land ethic through landscape design, interpretation, education and personal services."

Jennifer recently participated in an ecotourism development project in Egypt through the USFS International Programs Branch. During her first visit she identified a need for interpretive and visitor services planning.

As a result of her encouragement, a team was put together for a second trip to help develop a visitor center and exhibit plan for one of Egypt's newest national parks. Jennifer served as a lead on the project and coordinated efforts for landscape design, interpretive planning and graphic elements throughout the park.

- Ann Bond

## PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS



## Gary Heads into Retirement

**DURANGO** - Gary Thrash, San Juan Planning and Environmental Coordinator, will retire this fall after a federal career spanning several agencies and several decades.

In the 1970s, Gary worked as a seasonal for Rocky Mountain National Park and the Olympic NF, as a Bureau of Reclamation wildlife technician in North Dakota, and a BLM "Range Rider" in Durango.

In 1980, he moved to Prineville, Oregon, as a BLM Realty Specialist, and worked in recreation on the Deschutes and John Day Rivers.

In 1989, Gary moved to Meeker as Environmental Analyst and Planning Team Lead. In 1992, he made his way to Durango with the Bureau of Reclamation as Resource Management Specialist.

Gary soon moved over to BLM as San Juan Resource Area Ecologist, then was named Multi-Resource Staff Supervisor/Ecologist. In 2001, he assumed his current position.

Gary holds a degree in Biological Science from Colorado State University. He and wife Kay were married in Durango in 1978. They have three adult children - Vanessa, Josh and Amanda - and four grandchildren.

Gary plans to spend retirement working on Kay's family farm, which has been in her family since 1908 on Florida Mesa. He has made mission trips to Belarus, Mexico, and Nicaragua, and hopes to be able to go to Guatemala and Peru next year.

"My career with the government has allowed me to climb mountains, raft rivers, and work in some really unique places," Gary says. "But the relationships I have developed will far outlive the experiences."

- Ann Bond

## Music is the Message



**DURANGO** - The San Juan String Band combines a passion for the environment with a love of music. The string band provides entertaining music, conservation education and environmental awareness at campgrounds, schools and community events.

Sally Zwisler and Laurie Swisher are foresters in the Public Lands Center. Sally focuses on singing and playing banjo, harmonica, and dulcimer in the group. Laurie sings harmony and plays guitar.

Melissa Zwisler, who works as a visitor information interpreter and hostess on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, plays with the band as a volunteer. She plays cello, dulcimer, and washboard. Joni Vanderbilt works as hydrologist for the Manti-LaSal NF and plays mandolin and sings with the band.

The group plays old-time and traditional bluegrass tunes, ballads and original songs. Themes include a love of the land, and the animals and people who live there. Sally has also written songs about her personal experiences with the Missionary Ridge Fire and local areas.

Since its first public appearance in April of 2007 at the Durango Bluegrass Meltdown Band Showcase, the San Juan String Band has performed 15 times, reaching hundreds of people.

Additional information, contacts, and the band's scheduled presentations are posted on the web at:

[www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan/education/stringband.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan/education/stringband.shtml)

- Phyllis Wheaton,  
Pagosa Visitor Information Specialist



(Left to right) Melissa Zwisler, Joni Vanderbilt, Sally Zwisler, and Laurie Swisher entertain forest visitors at Williams Lake Reservoir near Pagosa Springs.

## COLUMBINE NEWS



## Levi's Lending a Hand

**BAYFIELD** - Levi Broyles is serving as Acting Columbine District Ranger/Field Office Manager for the next few months.

He comes to the San Juan from the Paonia Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison NFs, where he is currently District Ranger.

Levi began his USFS career working five seasons as a seasonal Wildlife/Range Technician in Regions 3 and 4.

He also served as District Wildlife Biologist, Range Conservationist and Range/Wildlife staff on the Bridgeport RD of the Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, as well as Range and Timber Staff on the Bridger-Teton NF.

Levi holds a degree from the University of Arizona in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, with a minor in Range Management.

He lives with his wife, Holli, and two daughters - Mackenez, 11, and Rhiannon, 9 - in Delta.

During his detail to the Columbine District, Levi will be staying in the Durango area but working primarily out of the Bayfield office.

- Stan Sparks, Columbine Visitor Information Specialist

## Reed Rides the Range

**BAYFIELD**- Sara Reed is the Columbine's new Range Management Specialist. She moved here from LaGrande, Oregon, where she worked as a seasonal marking timber and as a Type II firefighter on the LaGrande Ranger District of the Wallowa-Whitman NF.

Sara also worked three seasons on post-wildfire vegetation succession at the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station in Moscow, Idaho.

Originally from Homedale, Idaho, Sara, holds a degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Eastern Oregon University, and a degree in Rangeland Management and Ecology from Oregon State University. Sara looks forward to the challenges of her new position, which include noxious weed management, rangeland restoration and monitoring, as well as grazing permit administration. "I'm going to enjoy exploring the surrounding area with my dog, Sterling," she says.

- Stan Sparks



(At left) Columbine Visitor Information Specialist Stan Sparks and San Juan Assistant Center Manager Thurman Wilson take their duties seriously while tending the Olathe sweet corn at the annual SJMA Volunteer Appreciation picnic in August.

(At right) Columbine Wilderness Coordinator Nancy Berry and San Juan Recreation Staff Dave Baker display their culinary skills and can-do attitude while providing dozens of burgers (cooked jus' right!) at the annual SJMA picnic at Chris Park Campground.



# PAGOSA NEWS



## Darlene Departs

**PAGOSA SPRINGS** - After 34 years, Eleanor "Darlene" Lujan is retiring from her position as Purchasing Agent and Local Agency Program Coordinator for the SJNF Purchase Card System.

Darlene worked her entire career in Pagosa under six different District Rangers. She started in 1974 as trainee receptionist, and went on to serve as receptionist, payroll clerk, procurement clerk, resource clerk, and purchasing agent over the years.

In 1997, her duties were expanded to include serving the Rio Grande, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison NFs, as well. In 2002, she was promoted to her current position.

"I've enjoyed the work and the opportunity to meet a lot of people during my career," she says.

In 1918, Darlene's grandparents homesteaded south of Pagosa Springs in Trujillo. Her father was born and raised on the ranch retained by her family until 1965. Darlene's mother's father was a schoolteacher in Edith, south of Pagosa Springs. Darlene is a Pagosa area native, as are her parents and siblings.

Darlene has two daughters, Lynette and Candida, and four grandchildren. She looks forward to walking, movies, dancing, camping, fishing, and enjoying time with her grandchildren and family.

- Phyllis Wheaton

## Go, Our Team!

**PAGOSA SPRINGS** - When asked what his targets were for the 2008 season, Pagosa Wildlife Biologist Anthony Garcia replied; "to put together a district softball team and have fun doing wildlife work." He met his targets.

This summer, for the first time, the Pagosa Office had its own softball team competing in the Pagosa Men's Softball League. Their name, of course, - *The Rangers*.

Fortunately, it wasn't about winning or losing. As second baseman, Rich Mendoza, put it: "We didn't bring home the gold, but we had a good time."

The team of 16 consisted of both seasonal and permanent employees representing wildlife, range, fuels, fire, GIS, timber, recreation, and management, and James Romero, Colorado Division of Wildlife District Wildlife Manager. *The Rangers* were unable to field enough women players for a co-ed team this year.

One evening as *The Rangers* were making a dramatic comeback, an opposing coach was heard to say; "Remember, these are not the *power rangers*; they're the *forest rangers*."

The team's record was three wins and 10 losses for the season, and one win and two losses in tournament play. They were proud not to come in last, in this their first year of play against 13 seasoned teams.

"We [the cheering section] will be working on improving the wave for next season," says Beth Jones, one of several devoted fans.

After an intense month and a half of pre-season practice and playing two to four games a week, Anthony's target for next year is to have a co-ed team and to start training right after the prescribed burning season.

- Phyllis Wheaton



**The Rangers: (Front row, left-right): Brian Batchel, Richard Mendoza, Ben Hernandez, Mark Roper. (Back row, Left-Right): Anthony Garcia, John Garcia, Kevin Khung, Chris Bouton, Scott Kohler. Not shown: Chad Daugherty, Dane Paster, Jacob Thelan, James Romero, Jesse Jones, Jonathan Bosma, Thomas Kelsea.**

## DOLORES NEWS

### Roger Retires

**DOLORES** - Roger Baker, Noxious Weed Coordinator for the Dolores Public Lands Office, recently retired from the BLM.

Prior to transferring to Dolores, Roger was BLM Range Management Specialist in Meeker and Grand Junction, Colorado, and Las Vegas, Nevada.

He started his government career in the Office of Surface Mining, where he worked in Kentucky and Denver.

Erica, Roger's wife, has plans to retire in the near future from the Cortez Addition Recovery Services.

When asked what they will do with their golden years, Roger said they didn't have anything really planned but will, "no doubt be doing some traveling, golfing and, of course, some fishing."

The Bakers have three grown children; daughter Sarah is an elementary teacher in the Colorado Springs area. Luke, the second oldest, works in sales in the Denver area, and the youngest, Mark, also lives in the Denver area, where he works for a major grocery chain.

- Toni Kelly,

*DPLO Visitor Information Specialist*



### *Pulling for Colorado is a Success*

**DOLORES** - Working out of the Dolores Public Lands Office, 22 volunteers pulled 65 bags of knapweed and musk thistle, an estimate of approximately 3,250 noxious weeds as part of a statewide campaign to raise public awareness of invasive species.

In Colorado, about 300 volunteers participated in 15 projects across the state. The theme was "Spread the Word, Not the Weeds." The USFS Rocky Mountain Region State and Private Forestry Division supplied most of the funding for the first annual event.

"The benefit of this event was tremendous. Not only did we introduce new members of the recreating public to invasive species issues, but it was a great partnering opportunity in the Denver area and in several counties and municipalities across Colorado," says Rocky Mountain Region Invasive Species Coordinator Tom McClure.

- Ann Bond

### Taking *Service First* to the Next Level

**DOLORES** - Dolores BLM Field Office Archaeologist Vince MacMillan and FS Dolores District Ecologist Cara Gildar exchanged marriage vows on July 13, 2008. They were graced by the presence of family and friends from all over the country and good weather at Blue Lake Ranch in Hesperus. Now, that's what you call an interagency partnership!

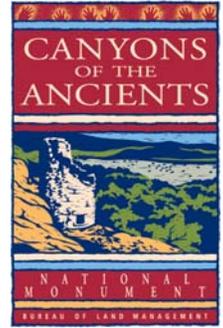


- Toni Kelly

## AHC/CANM NEWS

## New BLM LEOs to Help Watch Over Monument

**DOLORES** – Canyons of the Ancients National Monument is receiving two new Law Enforcement Rangers to help watch over its 165,000 acres of BLM lands. Canyons of the Ancients was created by Presidential Proclamation in 2000 to protect the highest known density of archaeological sites in the country, as well as the area's natural resources.



**Welcome back, Lanny!**

Lanny Wagner returns to the Four Corners in September from Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he has been the BLM State Staff Ranger for the past five years. In addition to regular law-enforcement duties, Lanny will also serve as a Field Training Officer to mentor other BLM officers in the region.

Lanny holds a degree in Recreation/Resource Management from Penn State University and started his federal career as an intern with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge in Florida. He moved onto the National Park Service in 1983 to work at Gulf Islands National Seashore, Sequoia/Kings Canyon, Redwood, and Natchez Trace Parkway.

In 1988 Lanny became Law Enforcement Ranger for the BLM California Desert District stationed in Barstow for three years. In 1992, he transferred to Durango as the first law enforcement ranger ever hired for the San Juan BLM Field Office, a position he held for 12 years. Lanny looks forward to getting out in the field again and being stationed back at the Anasazi Heritage Center, where he has many friends.

Sean Waggoner will arrive after the first of the year after completing the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Sean comes to the BLM from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, where he patrolled more than 1.6 million land acres and 230,000 acres of canals, rivers, lakes and shoreline. Sean has worked closely with several law enforcement and land agency partners. Sean was in the U.S. Navy prior to attending Indiana University and graduating with degrees in Natural Resource Management and Outdoor Recreation. He grew up in Golden and is anxious to return to the West. He will also be stationed at the Anasazi Heritage Center.

*- David Kill, VIS/Education/Volunteer Coordinator*



**AHC/CANM manager LouAnn Jacobson and San Juan Public Renewable Resources Assistant Center Manager Mike Johnson help tote away debris removed from the site of an illegal structure on the San Juan NF.**

## Someone's Gotta Do It

**DURANGO** - CANM/AHC Manager LouAnn Jacobson joined other members of the San Juan Leadership Team in August to help remove an illegal shack from the San Juan NF. The job entailed helping the Columbine Recreation crew tear down the 12X12-foot structure and haul out the materials and trash.

The Leadership Team meets monthly to discuss management of more than 2 million acres of BLM and USFS lands stretching east to west from Wolf Creek Pass to the Utah border, and north to south, from Red Mountain Pass to the Ute Indian reservations.

Each meeting includes a team-building exercise that takes the members out of their management role and puts them to work on the ground.

During past projects, the BLM and USFS managers have helped reseed elk habitat near Bayfield, remove brush along backcountry roads and repair fences near Pagosa Springs, catalogue artifacts for the Anasazi Heritage Center and backfill a vandalized archaeological site in Canyons of the Ancients.

*- Ann Bond*

# SJMA NEWS



## SJMA Gets Some Northern Exposure

**MONTROSE** - The San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) is branching out to the north to help provide enhanced visitor information and educational resources at the Montrose BLM Field Office and USFS Ouray RD of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison NFs.

A grand opening celebration was held for the new SJMA bookstore in the Montrose Public Lands Center in late August.

Proceeds from the sale of SJMA bookstore products support ongoing educational efforts, as well as on-the-ground volunteer programs and projects.

"SJMA is very excited about having a bookstore presence in Montrose and working with the great public lands employees on the GMUG," says Susan Bryson, SJMA Executive Director. "Everything is falling into place because of the great team effort by BLM, Forest Service, and SJMA staff and volunteers."

SJMA is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization dedicated to promoting responsible care of natural and cultural resources through education and hands-on involvement. SJMA has partnered with the USFS and BLM for 20 years on the San Juan Public Lands.

- Alan Peterson,

*SJMA Director of Bookstore Operations & Visitor Services*



**SJMA Executive Director Susan Bryson visits with community members, and BLM and Forest Service staff about SJMA outside the Montrose Public Lands Office.**



**We love hearing from you - drop us a line anytime!**

## SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS PEOPLE

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You can also read this newsletter and past issues online at:  
[www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan/about/newsletter.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan/about/newsletter.shtml)

Other helpful BLM and National Forest information  
is available at:

[www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan)

-OR-

[www.co.blm.gov/sjra/index.html](http://www.co.blm.gov/sjra/index.html)