

San Juan Public Lands People



Employee News San Juan National Forest San Juan Field Office-BLM *Summer 2005*



Key Public Lands Positions Filled



Farnsworth Trades Forests for Canyons

By Marissa Karchut

DOLORES - Linda Farnsworth, San Juan Public Lands Heritage Program Lead since 2001, is the new BLM Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Archaeologist.

Linda began her USFS career working for the Coconino National Forest in 1977. In 1991, she served as Zone Archaeologist for the Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts, near Flagstaff. This included management of the San Francisco Peaks and working closely with the Hopi and Navajo Tribes.

At the San Juan PLC, Linda handled cultural-resource concerns on the Missionary Ridge Fire, including compliance work for emergency and long-term rehabilitation, and working with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office.

Linda also worked on developing, staffing, and implementing the archaeological components of the fuels-reduction program, and inventorying and evaluating the recreation residences.

She has spent much time working on Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) compliance, verifying repositories, curating NAGPRA items, contracting for the inventories, and developing cultural-affiliation determinations.

She also worked on integrating the BLM and USFS heritage programs, and establishing standards for conducting archaeological work and maintaining archaeological records.

"I'm excited about being able to help shape the future management of the extraordinary cultural resources in the Monument," Linda says.

(Marissa Karchut is the Anasazi Heritage Center Museum Specialist.)

Beverlin to Head Dolores Office

By Ann Bond

DOLORES - Steve Beverlin, Assistant Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management Salmon Field Office in Salmon, Idaho, will report for duty as the new San Juan National Forest Dolores District Ranger/BLM Field Manager in late August.

Steve has worked in Salmon for 12 years, first as an ecologist, then in his current capacity. Before that, he worked as a Range Conservationist for the BLM in Lakeview, Oregon, in an office shared with the U.S. Forest Service.

Steve has been active in the Salmon community as assistant high school and junior high wrestling coach, and president of the Salmon Freestyle Wrestling Club.

He also served on several community partnership boards involving economic development, land trust, and smart-growth issues.

Steve holds a bachelor's degree in Range Management from South Dakota State University, and a master's in Rangeland Ecology from Montana State University.

He and wife, Gail, will be relocating to the Mancos or Dolores areas with their three children: Carly, 15; Rachel, 11; and Isaac, 9. In his spare time, Steve enjoys sports, hunting, fishing, hiking, backpacking, and rafting.

"I believe the most effective way to solve resource issues is for everyone to learn the land together," Steve says.

(Ann Bond is the San Juan's Public Affairs Specialist.)



SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS



Dave Baker exhibits his skills in planning and recreation during the Centennial Parade this summer.

Man on the Move

By Ann Bond

DURANGO — Dave Baker is trying to extricate himself from his current position as San Juan Public Lands Center Planning Team Lead so that he can assume the duties of his new position as Recreation and Wilderness Program Lead.

Dave is also still handling a few leftover responsibilities from his earlier position as the San Juan's Fire Rehabilitation Team Lead, coordinating the fire recovery effort following the Missionary Ridge Fire.

"I just can't seem to hold down a job very long," Dave jokes. One could argue that the San Juan is simply taking advantage of his plethora of talents.

Dave came to the San Juan from the BLM Worland Field Office in Wyoming, where he was Planning and Environmental Coordinator.

He holds a degree in Recreational Resource Management from the University of Montana.

Dave says he's excited about the prospects of his new position.

"I feel at home working in recreation and love the fact that I'll be helping to manage a huge chunk of Wilderness," he says. "I like dealing with all those issues."

Linda Says Hey

By Ann Bond

DENVER - Linda Tanny, who spent 16 years on the San Juan, says hello from the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, where she's busy administering contracts with companies such as Lockheed Martin and IBM, among others.

As a Contract Specialist, she's responsible for handling dozens of contract for a total of more than \$40 million. She spends most of the time on the third floor, but also has an office at the Federal Center with the WO Fire & Aviation Staff.

"I negotiated a window cubicle in the RO, so I have a view of downtown Denver," Linda says. "My co-workers in the RO are nice, and most of the time, it's an easy-going atmosphere."

She has also been assigned all of the Resource Ordering and Status System contracts for the National Wildfire Coordination Group.

On the home front, she has a contract to buy a house just minutes from the office with a big backyard for her three Bichon Frise dogs, which have yet to join her. Son Kurt, 18, who starts studies at Fort Lewis College this fall, has been watching the pups in Durango.

Although she won't be seeing as much of Kurt as she'd like, other family is close by. Linda's mother and father live in Wheat Ridge, only five miles from the office. Daughter, Andrea, is attending Colorado State University, which is also her mother's alma mater.

"Andrea plans to drive down here some weekends, and I'll go up to Fort Collins for CSU football games," Linda says.

She also has two brothers and their families who live in Northglenn and Lakewood, so she'll get to see her nieces and nephews grow up.

CENTENNIAL A SUCCESS



Mark Stiles and Howard Sargent lead the Centennial Parade down Main Avenue, Durango, in early June to celebrate the 100th birthday of the San Juan National Forest. A week of varied events brought crowds of employees, public, and retirees.

COLUMBINE



Well, Hello, Molly

By Stan Sparks

BAYFIELD - Molly Thrash is Columbine's new archaeologist. She comes to us from the Talladega National Forest Shoal Creek Ranger District, where she was District Archaeologist for 18 months.

Before that, Molly was crew leader on the Allegheny National Forest Marionville Ranger District for two seasons.

Molly graduated from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Biology.

She is married to US Army Major Christopher Thrash, who is stationed at Fort McPherson, Georgia. They have an 11-year-old son named Bennett.

Cat, Doha, and hamster, Rascal, are also part of the family. Molly enjoys cooking and gardening.

She looks forward to exploring the San Juan's many lakes and rivers in her endeavor to learn how to fish.

PAGOSA NEWS

Bye, Bye, Bob

By Phyllis Wheaton

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Bob Frye is retiring after more than 35 years with the USFS.

His first job with the agency was as an entomologist at the Region 3 Regional Office. He went on to a short stint in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office before he'd had enough of the big city.

Bob landed on the Pagosa Ranger District in 1975, working in timber stand improvement and brush disposal. He later became District Timber Staff. He retires as Supervisory Biological Scientist, responsible for integrating wildlife, ecology, watershed, timber, and fire for Pagosa.

Bob counts the opportunity to work with the interdisciplinary team at Pagosa Ranger District as a career highpoint. "This team truly implements projects in an interdisciplinary way, the way it's supposed to be done," he says.

Bob is a Colorado native. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry, biology, and entomology from Colorado State University. While in school, Bob met his wife, Shelley. They raised their two children, Lucas and Katherine, in Pagosa Springs. Bob looks forward to traveling, finishing a remodeling project, and working on old trucks and tractors. But he says the yellow-bark pine will call him to the forest from time to time.



Cory's at the Front Desk

By Ann Bond

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Cory Wall is holding down the front office in Pagosa as the new Visitor Information Specialist. Cory graduated from the Huxley College of Environmental Sciences at Western Washington University with a Bachelors degree in Environmental Education.

Past jobs include serving as an Interpreter at Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument, Interpretive Park Ranger in Yellowstone National Park, and Recreation Assistant on the Nebraska National Forest. Cory hails from Washington State, where his family lives. He's a single guy who loves to hike, climb, ski, bike, etc. His husky dog, Climber, accompanies him on many an outdoor adventure, such as this ascent of Pagosa Peak.

Dear Friends

I'm deeply appreciative of all the cards & letters with words of encouragement, calls, gifts, hospital visits when I had surgery, and most of all, knowing that you are praying for me. God bless you and your families. His blessings are with me daily. I have a wonderful support system with my daughter and son-in-law here in Santa Fe. Been working with an oncology nutritionist, and it has made a world of difference in minimizing the chemo side effects with the foods I eat and when I eat them.

Doing some herbs, along with a few vitamin supplements. I lost a few strands of hair, but I still have plenty left! Have a great summer! Enjoy the beauty of God's creation. I'm staying positive, anything else is not an option.

My heart is in Colorado.

Later, Alice Chavez

DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE

AHC NEWS



Dolores BLM Archaeologist Brooke Brown and Intern Jason Dabling working to install the Gyp Gap Rockshelter interpretive panel.

Ancient tools found at the site date back to the Ancestral Puebloans. Radiocarbon dating of a charcoal fragment indicates Ute or Navajo occupation. Rock art exhibits different styles, also indicating habitation through time. Unfortunately, the panels have been repeatedly vandalized, mostly by bullet holes and graffiti. This spring, we discovered that several sets of initials had again been carved into the rock.

In lieu of constant surveillance, we opted to install an interpretive sign at the site. The content covers the history of the site, why it should be treated with respect, and proper visitor etiquette. It also establishes the first official agency presence at the site.

The sign was developed with the help of Native American tribes, who were interested in protecting the panels. San Juan officials traveled to the Hopi Reservation to meet with cultural staff and tribal elders. The Hopi helped edit the sign's text to convey their clan beliefs accurately. Representatives of Tesuque Pueblo visited the rock shelter and shared how sacred the site is to them. The tribes say the rock-art images carry messages about their people's migration through the area.

River Ranger Rick Ryan and Archaeological Intern Jason Dabling helped me install the interpretive panel in the heat of July. Our hope is that visitors will respect the site if they know its history and cultural importance.

(Brooke Brown is the Dolores Field Office Archaeologist.)



Dolores Office Update

By Toni Kelly

DOLORES - Contracting Officer's Representative Van Chanay reports that the new Dolores Public Lands Office is about half completed.

"In some areas we are on or ahead of schedule; in others, we're slightly behind," he says.

The 18,500-square-foot office

is designed to hold about 80 employees. The warehouse, also under construction onsite, is 11,000 square feet. Bids are being taken for the second phase of the project, which includes a 10-person bunkhouse, corral and barn.

(Toni Kelly is the Dolores Public Lands Office Visitor Information Specialist.)

Protecting Antiquities

By Brooke Brown

DOLORES - The Dolores Public Lands Office hopes a little education and interpretation will go a long way in protecting a threatened cultural resource from vandalism.

The Gyp Gap Rockshelter, on BLM land between Gypsum and Disappointment valleys, is believed to have been continuously occupied from pre-historic to modern times.



Corsair is the New Can-Do Man

By Marissa Karchut

DOLORES - Rex Corsair is the new Chief of Maintenance for the Anasazi Heritage Center and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

Rex was raised in Kansas as a middle child in a family of six boys. He worked in Tacoma, Washington for six years at Fort Lewis Army Base as a Maintenance Mechanic and eight years at Washington Natural Gas/Puget Sound Energy as a Service Technician.

Before that, he served two years in active duty for the U.S. Army as a Combat Engineer.

Six months of his service was spent in Honduras, Central America.

He enjoys the variety of tasks and challenges his new job requires.

And although he misses family and friends back in the Pacific Northwest, Rex says he likes southwestern Colorado because of its prime location for hunting, fishing, and camping.

In addition to enjoying the outdoors, Rex enjoys watching movies and sightseeing in his free time.

He and his wife, Heidi, have been married for 16 years.

SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Volunteers Receive Chief's Award

By Kathe Hayes

DURANGO - Congratulations to Will Rietveld and his wife, Janet Reichl, on receiving the USDA Chief's Award for excellence in volunteering. The couple has volunteered for the San Juan Mountains Association Wilderness Information Specialists (WIS) Program for six years.

Will is a retired USFS scientific researcher and was responsible for creating and later directing the National Agro Forestry Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. Janet is a retired occupational therapist. Together, they hike hundreds of miles of local Wilderness trails each year, talking with hundreds of visitors. They monitor trail conditions in the backcountry and turn in detailed reports on maintenance needs, sign damage, and abandoned camps. Not to mention, they pick up and pack out hundreds of pounds of trash.



Will and Janet also help put on free backpacking workshops, researching ways to help lighten loads through unique and innovative gear. This year they also helped put on a backcountry cooking class.

The couple also designed and maintains a Chicago Basin trip-planning guide on the SJMA website. The site receives thousands of hits in summer, and they personally answer email questions about the area.

In 2004, Will and Janet organized a cleanup project on the Pine River Trail in the Weminuche Wilderness. Backpackers and horsemen journeyed 11 miles to a heavily used camping area to assist Wilderness rangers in the cleanup of abandoned camps, cached goods, and trail trash. Volunteer horse packers helped pack out some 500 pounds of trash left by thoughtless visitors.

(Kathe Hayes is the Volunteer Coordinator for the San Juan Mountains Association.)



SJMA volunteers pause after all their hard work on the Burro Bridge Trail.

Burro Bridge Trail Gets TLC

By Kathe Hayes

DOLORES – This 4th of July, 89 volunteers descended on the Burro Bridge Campground to make Lloyd McNeil's dream come true – to build a trail connecting the campground to the Groundhog Trail, which leads into the Lizardhead Wilderness.

Volunteers of Outdoor Colorado, a Denver-based volunteer organization, helped with tools, food, and expertise, and SJMA supplied local volunteers.

When the weekend was over, one-half mile of the three-mile trail was completed, including four switchbacks on very steep terrain.

The Southwest Youth Corps and Dolores Public Lands Office trail crew made the finishing touches.

Penny Wu anticipates finishing the trail sometime this fall.

As always, SJMA was glad to be able to help out!



SAN JUAN
MOUNTAINS
ASSOCIATION

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BITS AND PIECES OF NEWS

Greetings from the Islands



Former Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Archaeologist Laura Kochanski and crew.

Dear San Juan Folks:

I thought I would send along a picture from Pu'uhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park, where I work on the Big Island of Hawaii. My husband, Tom, is doing contract GIS work for Volcano National Park on the same island.

One of the ARPA violations that occurred before I got here was the theft of a ki'i, or tiki, near Hale o Keawe, the main interpretive feature at the park. The Hale is a very sacred feature to Native Hawaiians, as at one time it was the mausoleum that held the remains of some of the Chiefs of Kona.

Thieves had stolen the portion of the ki'i above ground surface by breaking it off. A couple of months ago, we excavated and removed the buried part of the ki'i and replaced it with a new one that was carved by the park's carver, a gentleman named Tava.

The picture shows the new ki'i, Tava the carver, and the crew that worked on the replacement project.

Best to You All!

Laura Kochanski

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