

# San Juan Public Lands People



## Employee News Fall 2006



## Work Force Plan Update

**By Howard Sargent**

Many employees have been asking Leadership Team members about the status of the Work Force Plan. We expect to have pretty solid budget numbers by January, which would keep us on schedule for the implementation timeline. However, a continuing resolution could delay decisions. For now, we plan to announce, sometime after the first of the year, which reductions may take place in June, 2007.

Once again, decisions will be based on maintaining a 75% fixed-cost ratio, taking into account an expected 3-4% decrease in budget over the next 2-4 years (coupled with an expected 2-3% increase in cost-of-living expenses). However, if those expectations don't become reality, or other opportunities become available, we can make adjustments in either direction.

Until then, a staff group is developing criteria to make sure we retain sufficient funding for training, equipment upgrades, etc. We do not believe that cuts in these areas would offer a long-term solution to decreasing budgets.

The Civil Rights Impact Analysis of the proposed reorganization is available for viewing on the web now. It identifies impacts on those nearing retirement, career ladders, women and minorities, customer service, employee morale, safety, workloads, transition opportunities, etc. Also posted are responses to questions and comments by employees, which fall outside of the CRIA's focus.

FS employees can access information at:  
<http://fsweb/HR/wrkfrce.shtml>

BLM employees can access information at:  
<http://fsweb.sanjuan.r2.fs.fed.us/HR/wrkfrce.shtml>



## New Dolores Office Open

**By Toni Kelly**

After years of being overcrowded and scattered throughout several small offices, the employees of the Dolores Public Lands Office are housed under the same roof. About 80 FS and BLM employees moved into the new 18,500 square-foot office and 11,000 square-foot warehouse this fall. The compound is located on State Highway 184 south of Dolores.

The new office has several energy-saving features. Exterior walls have an "R" value of 24, compared to the R19 value used in most stick-frame structures. Heating and cooling equipment and water heaters are rated above 90% efficiency and controlled by thermostats.

Windows are double-paned and insulated with thermal breaks. Entrances use vestibules and double doors. High windows allow for passive solar gain, while ceiling fans circulate warmer air.

Water conservation includes plumbing with flow restrictors and minimum flush devices. Most planted trees have self-contained water bags for individual irrigation. Other planted areas are irrigated with low-flow sprinkler heads and tree bubblers.

An upland-Spanish architectural design is reflected in the adobe-like straw-bale wall that separates the employee's courtyard from the main entrance. An arch-shaped wooden door gives employees outside access to the north wing and courtyard area (via a key pad).



# COLUMBINE NEWS

## Laurie Joins Columbine

**By Ann Bond**

Laurie Robison, former FLC Fire Prevention Technician, has moved to Bayfield as Columbine's Administrative Support Assistant. Prior to coming to the San Juan, Laurie was a fire prevention technician on the Peaks and Mormon Lake RDs of the Coconino NF, where she also served as an information assistant and engine crew member. Before her USFS career, Laurie was chief photographer for the Arizona Daily Sun in Flagstaff.

Laurie and her sled dog team of six Siberian huskies compete in sprint races across Colorado. She also plays the bagpipes and is a member of Westwind Pipe Band.

Laurie is proud of what she's been able to accomplish in the San Juan's fire prevention and education program but is looking forward to working in Bayfield, where she lives. She's also excited to be working at the district level again.



**Congrats to Beth Jones, Columbine Hazardous Fuels Forestry Tech and husband, Jesse Jones, Lead Firefighter Forestry Technician, who are the proud parents of Samuel Maddox David Sol Jones, born on August 24.**

## Molly's in the Navy Now

**By Stan Sparks**

**Bayfield** - Columbine Archaeologist Molly Thrash has accepted a position as Project Manager for Navy Environmental Compliance in the Department of the Navy in San Diego, California.

Molly reports to her new job in mid November, and will be joined in May by her husband, retired U.S. Army Major Christopher Thrash and their son Bennett, 12, after his school year is completed.

Molly graduated from the University of Colorado Springs with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology/Biology and worked as a district archeologist on the Shoal Creek RD of the Talladega NF before coming to the Columbine in January of 2005.

Even though Molly is moving on to bigger and better things, she plans to return to the area for frequent visits.



## Gary's Moving to Pueblo

**By Stan Sparks**

Columbine Trail Crew member Gary Mason is leaving the USFS after 33 years of service on the San Juan. As a seasonal, Gary has worn many hats, including surveying, working two years to supervise rehabilitation of Columbine trails affected by the Missionary Ridge Fire, and handling trail reconstruction on Animas City Mountain.

Gary taught fifth grade at Needham Elementary School in Durango for 25 years, and spent most of his summer breaks working as a seasonal, first as a district timber employee in 1962. He spent the last 17 consecutive summers working with the recreation department.

"Gary is an extremely hard worker and always a 'can do' guy," said Richard Speegle, Columbine Recreation Program Leader. "Whatever we asked of him, he always came through and did a great job."

Gary and wife Ann are moving to Pueblo to be closer to their grandchildren, but he has not ruled out returning in the future to work again for the San Juan.

## PAGOSA NEWS

### Laura's Left

**By Liz Parker**

Laura Johnson-Boudreaux has left Pagosa Springs for a recreation position on the Medicine Wheel/Painted RD of the Bighorn NF, where she is working with outfitters, guides, and visitor centers.

Laura earned a bachelors degree in Spanish from the College of Saint Benedict in 1990. She went on to teach ski school in Winter Park, Colorado.

Laura's USFS career began on the San Juan after she graduated from Colorado State University in 1996 with a masters degree in Natural Resources Recreation with an emphasis in Wilderness Management.

Laura started as a seasonal Wilderness Ranger Crew Leader on the Columbine, then moved to the PLC to work as Wilderness Monitoring Crew Leader. She moved to Pagosa Springs in 2001 to lead and manage the District's Wilderness Program.



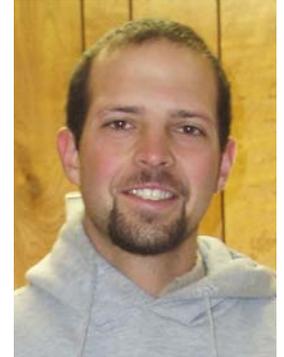
### Eric's in Timber

**By Liz Parker**

Eric Scott has been the Timber Crew Supervisor for Pagosa since this summer. He was born and raised in Minburn, Iowa, and received his Bachelors Degree in Forestry from Iowa State University.

Eric worked seasonally on the San Juan during the summers of 2002 and 2003. He worked seasonally on the Boise NF in 2004.

After a term appointment on the Chippewa NF in 2005, he accepted his current position in Pagosa.



### Alice Retires

**By Vita Herrick**

Alice Chavez has retired after 24 years with the Pagosa RD. She worked in visitor information from 1982 until 1997, then moved into the position of office manager.

"It was a challenge going from working with the external public to working with internal staff employees," Alice says.

Her retirement plans include spending quality time with her family - from her eldest grandson, who is 22, to her youngest granddaughter, who is just 16 months old.

"Life has been good, the ups and the downs," she says, and invites all her friends and coworkers to stop by and say hello at her home, 133 Lewis Street in Pagosa, just down the alley from the Pagosa office.



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## DOLORES NEWS

### Patty's New in Admin

#### By Toni Kelly

The DPLO has a new Administrative Support Assistant. Juliet Craik has been acting in the position while covering her own position as Resource Assistant for the past few years. This has been no easy task, especially during the purchasing frenzy that was required for the move to the new facility.

Patty comes to us from Silver City, New Mexico, where she worked as an Information Receptionist for two and a half years on the Gila NF. She grew up in Albuquerque but spent most of her adult life in Fairbanks, Alaska.



"Part of my career was spent as a field fishery biologist in Alaska, and I spent two years working on Atlantic salmon restoration in New Hampshire," Patty says. "I also spent 10 years conducting field research in remote areas of northern Alaska with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

Patty also worked for the National Park Service for a decade managing natural and cultural resource programs in Alaska.

In her new role, Patty will provide budget administrative support and guidance to program managers and staff. She will also serve as liaison for the office on purchasing and procurement, as well as maintaining the office filing system.

Patty enjoys watercolor painting, gardening, walking her two Australian shepherds and cross-country skiing.

"I'm excited about working in a Service First office and intrigued with the concept of sharing across agency boundaries," Patty says.



### Phil Celebrates 30 Years

#### By Toni Kelly

Phil Kemp was recently awarded his USFS 30-Year Service Certificate. He began his career working as a summer seasonal. After four seasons, he began his permanent career in 1978 on the Gifford Pinchot NF. Phil has worked on many NFs in the western states, including the Gifford Pinchot, Deschutes, Winema and Umatilla, and Beaverhead, and for the past 14 years, the San Juan.

Phil has spent his entire career as a silviculturist. He is currently the program manager for timber sales, miscellaneous forest product sales, reforestation, and mechanical fuels reduction projects on the west half of the San Juan.

Phil has worked with the Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership since its conception in 1992. He was also recognized by the Washington Office as the 2001 Forest Products Employee of the Year for the Rocky Mountain Region.

Phil and his wife Mary have three grown children.

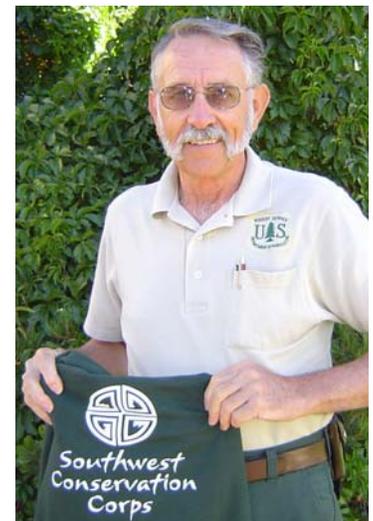
### Lloyd Recognized for His Work

#### By Penny Wu

Dolores Recreation staffer Lloyd McNeil has been recognized by the Southwest Conservation Corps as "Project Sponsor of the Year."

Lloyd was recognized for his outstanding support of trails project and his ability to work effectively with the many crews on Dolores Public Lands.

"It is the highlight of our crews' experience when they get to work with Lloyd," said Harry Bruell, Southwest Conservation Corps Executive Director.



## AHC/CANM NEWS

## Farewell to Bill and Sue

### By Marissa Karchut

Bill and Sue Hensler, who recently "retired" after volunteering more than 12,000 hours over the past 14 years at the Anasazi Heritage Center, have been nominated for the Colorado Volunteer of the Year Award.

It's estimated that Bill and Sue have greeted about 70,000 visitors at the AHC front desk. They have also led tours, worked with hundreds of school groups, reviewed educational materials, assisted in the museum shop, tracked and reported visitation numbers, and helped run the volunteer program.

In 2003, the couple received the "Take Pride in America" award from Secretary of the Interior for working more than 5,000 hours. That same year they also loaned the BLM, at no charge, a complete exhibit to share with the public in the museum's special gallery. *The Struggle of the Clay: Pottery of Mata Ortiz* was a phenomenal collection of outstanding vessels, combined with a unique and captivating personal story of the artists.

Bill and Sue hope to spend more time visiting with their grandchildren, traveling the world, and just enjoy living in southwestern Colorado.



## Heather's at the Helm

### By Marissa Karchut

Heather Musclow has been selected for a term position as Monument Planner for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Previously, she had been fulfilling the duties on detail from the Moab Ranger District of the Manti-La Sal NF.

She and her husband Rudy, a recently retired Chief for the Utah Division of Wildlife, are currently building a house in Lewis. They have four horses, three dogs, a desert tortoise, and a dove.

Heather received her Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management at Humboldt State and her Masters in Biology at California Polytechnical Institute.

Even though she was the daughter of military parents and moved around a lot, Heather still claims Redding, California as home.



## Got a Story Idea?

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## San Juan Public Lands People

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## SJMA NEWS

### Kathe Recognized Statewide

**By Susan Bryson**

San Juan Mountains Association Volunteer Coordinator Kathe Hayes received the 2006 Colorado Land Stewardship Award, Colorado's most prestigious award for the active stewardship of public lands.

The award is presented annually by Volunteers of Colorado to individuals or groups for inspirational leadership, vision, or personal engagement in hands-on preservation and enhancement of public lands.

Kathe received a plaque honoring her achievements and a \$1,000 cash award to the Colorado land-stewardship non-profit of her choice (yes, she selected SJMA). She also received a cash stipend to help pay for travel expenses to attend the award reception held in Denver this fall.

In addition, VOC will promote her name and accomplishments for the purpose of providing recognition and raising awareness about citizen stewardship of public lands to inspire others to become engaged in similar activities.

Please join me in congratulating Kathe for a job well done! I'm delighted that she has been recognized for her hard work and commitment.



**SJMA President Susan Bryson (left) and SJMA Volunteer Coordinator Kathe Hayes (right) pose with Congressman Andrew Romanoff, who was a guest speaker at the award ceremony.**

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