

San Juan Public Lands People



Employee News Summer 2007



Matt Returns to the San Juan

DURANGO - Matt Janowiak is returning to the San Juan as Assistant Center Manager for Physical Resources in the PLC. He will be managing our Lands and Realty, Fluid and Solid Minerals, Hydrology, Air, and Abandoned Mined Lands programs.

Matt has been Assistant Field Manager for Minerals and Non-Renewable Resources in the BLM Miles City Field Office in Montana.

He has overseen 30 employees working in Oil and Gas, Solid Minerals, Realty, Cultural Resources, Recreation, major NEPA actions, and Budget. His staff recently completed a 30,000-acre land exchange, and his unit is an Energy Pilot Office.

"We manage coal mining, and have been getting a lot of interest in uranium mining," he says. "The biggest challenge has been dealing with the potential listing of the greater sage grouse and oil and gas development."

Matt has also been working on a new Resource Management Plan for Eastern Montana, and a supplemental EIS for coalbed natural gas in the Powder River Basin.

In his spare time, Matt and his wife, Madeleine, have been renovating a 100-year-old house in Miles City. He has also enjoyed hunting in Montana.

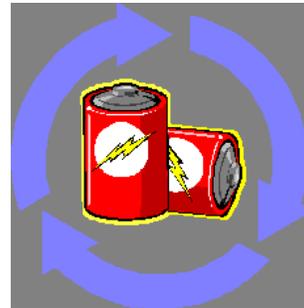
"I am going to miss Montana," he says. "The people in the office here are hard-working, fun, and energetic. As a manager, my biggest challenge has been figuring out how hard to pull back on the reins, rather than using the spurs to get things moving. Not many managers have the honor of saying that, but I know the folks in Durango have the same work ethic and passion for doing things right, so I'm going from one great situation to another."

- Ann Bond



Matt Janowiak and Shadow

Green Team offers Battery Recycling



DURANGO - The San Juan Green Team has implemented battery recycling. The PLC and each of the district offices have received five-gallon buckets to start off.

Employees can recycle dry-cell type batteries, including batteries from cell phones, two-way radios,

paggers, cameras, calculators, electronic planners, and small cordless tools. This program is strictly for work-generated batteries.

The PLC container is in the break room by the telephone. The poster above it describes what types of batteries can be recycled. Check with office managers or Green Team members for locations at other offices.

The batteries you use at home can be recycled at grocery stores. Single-use alkaline batteries are the most common household battery and include AAA, AA, C, D and 9-volt. Collection containers are available in Durango at Albertson's, North & South City Markets, Durango Public Library, Durango Natural Foods, Nature's Oasis, Office Depot, and Wal-Mart.

Other locations will be available in the future in La Plata County.

- Laurie Yeager

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PLC NEWS

Welcome, Rick

DURANGO - Rick Rymerson is the San Juan's new Minerals Staff Chief.

He comes to us from Anchorage, Alaska, where he served as Bioenvironmental Engineer for the U.S. Air Force Reserve Air National Guard.

His past career includes serving as a BLM Geologist in Lander, Wyoming; Restoration Project Manager at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida; BLM Geologist in St. George, Utah; and Environmental Manager for the Minnesota Air National Guard.

Originally from Minnesota, Rick holds a Bachelor's degree in Geology from Eastern Washington University, and a Master's degree in Geology and Geochemistry from University of Florida.

Rick and his wife, Dawn, have three children; Colin,13; Trevor,10; and Autumn,5.

"I look forward to providing my family a stable and fun environment in Durango, while being an asset to the San Juan Public Lands Center," he says.

- Howard Sargent



Laurie has New Position

DURANGO – Laurie Ball, San Juan Human Resources Assistant since 2004, is now Administrative Support Clerk. She'll be handling general office support services, which will include processing the mail for both agencies. She'll also have her hands full serving as recycling coordinator; handling records management, property and procurement; contact for cell phone users; and taking care of the printers, copy machines and fax machines for the PLC.

Laurie graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Art Education. She started her FS career as a clerk for the Rocky Mountain Experiment Station in Fort Collins. On the Arapaho and Roosevelt NFs, Laurie worked in visitor information before becoming the administrative assistant for the Forest Supervisor.

Laurie says she's very happy to be able to stay on the San Juan, following the Human Resources migration to the Albuquerque Service Center.

"I enjoy the fact that I'll be out and about more with this position seeing people," Laurie says. "One of the things I like best about the new job is the opportunity to work with BLM employees, which I wasn't able to do in Human Resources; they are fun people."

- Ann Bond

Students Volunteer to Plant Trees

VALLECITO - Twenty 8th-grade students from the Montessori School in Evergreen, Colorado spent a portion of an educational field trip to southwestern Colorado this spring, helping to rehabilitate burned areas of the San Juan. Their work is helping 750 newly planted ponderosa pine seedlings make it through the summer at Pine Point Campground on the eastern shore of Vallecito.

The seedlings had been planted earlier by Columbine RD employees and volunteers as part of a continuing effort by the Forest Service and community to rehabilitate Vallecito areas damaged during the Missionary Ridge fire in 2002.

The students staked plastic shelters around each seedling, then mulched each with dried grass and small twigs to help retain moisture.

- Pam Wilson



PLC NEWS



Pam's Cooking Up Early Retirement

DURANGO - Pam Wilson, San Juan Fire Information Officer, is taking early retirement after 23 years with the FS. Pam started her agency career in 1979 as an office draftsman, digitizing information during the first round of Forest Plans on the Routt NF, where she also worked as a cartographer and landscape architect trainee.

In 1982, she and Thurman were married and soon left Colorado for Washington State, where Pam worked jobs in the private sector while Thurman was Economist for the Wenatchee NF.

When they returned to Colorado in 1986, Pam worked for the Routt NF from home in Monte Vista in personnel and mapping. She soon landed a position on the Rio Grande NF as Visitor Information Specialist on the Saguache RD. Two years later, she moved into the SO as Personnel Clerk. She went on to serve as Planning Assistant and Writer/Editor for the Rio Grande NF.

In 1996, she and Thurman moved to Durango, where Pam worked as Visitor Information Specialist in the SO for four years. She moved up to the GMUG for two years and served in Public Affairs and Planning, then returned to the San Juan in 2001 as Fire Information Officer.

"I've enjoyed this job the most of all my jobs, especially the work with the community on fire information and education," Pam says. "I'm proud of the work I accomplished during the Missionary Ridge Fire. Working with the affected communities through the fire and rehabilitation process was very rewarding."

Pam has served on Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team "A" for the past four years, and plans to continue her work with the team as a fire department cooperater. She also looks forward to hiking with her dogs, Annie and Rocket.

- Ann Bond

Brad's Retiring

DURANGO - Brad Morrison is retiring after 33 years of working for the federal government. He started his career in 1974 as a seasonal engineering technician with the Soil Conservation Service in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Over the next couple of years, he also worked in seasonal positions for BLM in Socorro, New Mexico, Phoenix, and Casper, Wyoming.

Brad's first permanent job came in 1976 with the Soil Conservation Service in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Two years later, he took his first permanent job with the FS on the Middle Fork RD of the Routt NF as Range Conservationist/Wildlife Biologist. In 1979, he moved to the former Animas RD of the San Juan in the same position. During his tenure at the Animas, and later Columbine RD, he also handled outfitter/guide permits, trails, and minerals.

In 2002, Brad moved into the PLC to work as Safety and Health Management Officer. Over the course of his career, Brad has worked a myriad of fire assignments.

Looking back, he remembers on-the-ground projects as the most rewarding of his tenure with the agency.

"I really enjoyed working with volunteers at the district level to install fisheries structures," Brad says. "I enjoyed the freedom to be anywhere on the district at any time working on several disciplines." His immediate plans are to "open the new book of my life and begin creating a new identity for myself."



- Ann Bond

PAGOSA NEWS



John's on the Range

PAGOSA SPRINGS - John Garcia, Pagosa's new Range Management Specialist, comes to us from the Salmon/Challis NF in Idaho, where he was a student trainee under the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP).

John began his college education at Haskell Indian Nations University, where he played football. He transferred to the range management program at Kansas State University, graduating in 2006.

John has been interning with the FS since 1999 in a variety of work assignments, including recreation, trails, fisheries, wildlife, and range. He has worked for National Forests in Utah, New Mexico and Nevada.

John grew up in Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico, the oldest continuously inhabited community in the United States. He is from a family of seven sisters and two brothers.

His family is part of the Acoma Cattle Growers Association. John grew up working cattle and learning from the older members of the association. He team-roped with his brothers and hopes to get back into rodeo.

He and his wife, Allison, have one daughter, Johnessa, and two sons, Taylor and Eli. Allison is from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation in Topeka, Kansas.

John enjoys hiking, fishing, and hunting, especially with his children.

- Phyllis Wheaton

Mark's Photos Win Kudos

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Mark Roper, Pagosa GIS Specialist, has received several awards from a variety of photography contests, including three from USDA Forest Service *Fire Management Today*.

Recently, his photos were among the 212 entries on display at Moonlight Books during the Pagosa Springs Arts Council photography contest. His photos were awarded First Place in the Patterns and Textures category and Third Place in the Winter Scenic category.

Mark has photographed re-takes of old photos of San Juan NF guard stations and lookouts. In the fall, he can be found, camera in hand, along the Cumbres-Toltec Railroad. His interest in the historical may be attributed to his family history. The *Colorado Centennial Farms* program recognizes farms and ranches that have been owned and operated by the same family for 100 years or more. The Ruddock-Roper ranch west of Pueblo is a Colorado Centennial ranch.

Mark began his career as a Wilderness Ranger on the San Isabel NF. He quickly went into cartography, which led to GIS work. He came to Pagosa in 2001. Mark often serves as project photographer for our office. His most recent work highlights the 2006 Prescribed Fire season.

- Phyllis Wheaton



Chris Moves East

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Chris Bouton has landed his first permanent appointment as a forestry technician working in developed and dispersed recreation here in the Pagosa office.

Chris comes to us from the Dolores Public Lands Office, where he worked for three years as a FS trail crew leader. During the winters, Chris worked as a BLM employee in recreation and travel management. While there, he enjoyed the terrain, his co-workers, and the variety of

work.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Chris grew up in the foothills of the Appalachia Mountains in Flatwoods, Kentucky. After a year at the University of Kentucky, Chris transferred to Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, where he studied wild-land recreation management.

Through the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP), Chris worked in trails on the Kaibab NF in Arizona for three years on the Williams and Tusayan RDs. Chris plays guitar and banjo. He enjoys skiing, snowboarding, rafting, hiking, backpacking, climbing, and horseback riding. Some of those activities are shared with his dog, Sage.

- Phyllis Wheaton

PAGOSA NEWS



Biological Technician Alison Brady points to English sundew.

San Juan Biologist Finds New Sundew

PAGOSA SPRINGS - While surveying fens on the San Juan last summer, Pagosa Biological Technician Alison Brady discovered *Drosera anglica* (English sundew), a species of sundew not found before in Colorado. Until now *Drosera rotundifolia* (roundleaf sundew) has been the only *Drosera* species observed in the state.

Globally, sundews are one of the largest genera of carnivorous plants, with over 170 species; but only 12 are native to the United States. These carnivorous plants attract, catch and digest insects via highly sensitive glandular hairs on their leaves, which move in response to the lightest touch by their prey. Sundews are used in hundreds of registered medications, are used to treat asthma, coughs, lung infections, and stomach ulcers.

Although no *Drosera* species are protected under the Endangered Species Act, all are listed as threatened or endangered in different states. Threats include habitat loss, peat mining, and collection. Charles Darwin observed that contact from the legs of a gnat with a single hair is all it takes for an insect to become ensnared. Feeding on insects supplements the poor mineral nutrition of the soils in which sundews grow. The name, sundew, refers to the shiny drops which give the appearance of morning dew.

- Andy Kratz, Rocky Mountain Regional Botanist



English sundew (*Drosera anglica*)

Decker Retires



PAGOSA SPRINGS – After 45 years with the Forest Service, Ron Decker has retired. He started on the San Juan's old Piedra District in 1961, moving to the Pagosa District in 1965. Most of Ron's career was spent working in timber, fire and recreation.

"I guess my greatest accomplishment would be working with enjoyment for the Forest Service for 45 seasons, while accomplishing many diverse projects," he says of his tenure.

Retirement plans include catching up on home projects, then perhaps starting a new career.

"I will miss the people and projects that have to do with managing the land," he says. "I will not miss the hoops one has to jump through to accomplish the projects necessary to manage the land."

- Liz Parker

Liz is Leaving

PAGOSA SPRINGS - San Juan Mountains Association Visitor Information Assistant Liz Parker is leaving to take a position as Pagosa Springs High School Achievement Center Coordinator through the Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

"I'll be working with other agencies to provide at-risk students the help they need to make good choices, do well in school, improve their self image and work on relationship skills," says Liz, who will also be teaching Social Responsibility Training, a curriculum that addresses these issues.

Liz started working with SJMA in 2004, after four seasons as a FS seasonal. Last year, in addition to her visitor information responsibilities, Liz took on extra duties as Education Program Assistant. Liz has lived in Pagosa Springs since 1994, and has seven children and two grandchildren. She has been a college student since 1996 and will receive her Bachelor's degree in Child and Youth Advocacy next year.

"I'm very proud to have been part of this team," says Liz. "The conservation education efforts of the staff and volunteers are incredible."

- Alan Peterson



DOLORES NEWS



Dan is Awarded

DOLORES - The Rocky Mountain Region Resource Information Program has presented Resource Information Coordinator, Dan Greene, of the San Juan Public Lands Center with the 2007 Award for Excellence in Resource Information Stewardship. Dan accepted the award at the Region 2 Resource Information Specialists annual meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota.

This annual achievement award is the first in a new regional tradition of honoring those working in the resources information arena, which includes stewardship of numerous computer-based natural resource applications.

- Toni Kelly

Andy Says Hello

DOLORES - Andy Reed recently left us to transfer to the Flathead NF, where he's enjoying a promotion and new career challenges.

As the a pre-timber sale lead on his unit, his duties include organizing and implementing the field work after NEPA is completed for timber, fuels, and mechanical treatment projects.

"I have already 'sold' my first stewardship contract and have one more about ready to go," Andy says.

Andy and his wife, Kristal, who's working at a local bank, are enjoying their new home in Kalispell, Montana.

- Toni Kelly

Mark's Promoted

DOLORES - Mark Krabath has climbed another notch up the career ladder to become Supervisory Forester in Dolores. His new responsibilities include oversight planning and implementation of the timber, reforestation, and mechanical fuels programs.

Originally from Wisconsin, Mark began his FS career in 1978 in Utah, where he worked seasonally for four years on the Unita NF. During that time, he worked at Deer Valley Ski Area in the off season.

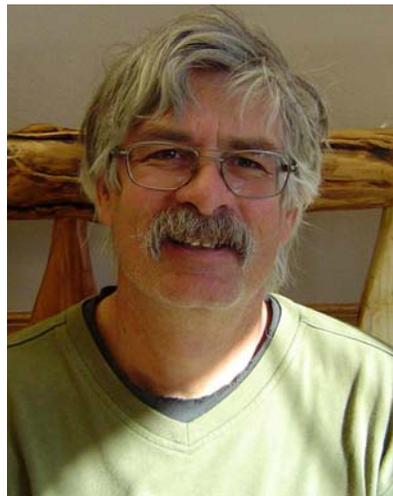
Mark spent several seasons on the Deschutes and Wallowa-Whitman NFs in Oregon, working in timber and reforestation. In 1999, he transferred here as a pre-sale forester.

Mark graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point with a Bachelor's degree in Forestry. He also attended Continuing Education in Ecosystem Management training and earned his Silvicultural Certification.

Last summer, Mark married Susan Burke, who teaches German at Durango High School but plans to retire this year. His hobbies include telemark skiing, river rafting, mountain biking, and sailing.

"I've found the girl of my dreams, live in a log cabin, have great friends and co-workers, and an awesome place to work and play. The future's so bright I've got to wear shades," Mark says.

- Toni Kelly



Eric is our New Wildlife Tech

DOLORES - Eric Freels is the new Dolores Wildlife Biological Technician. He'll be organizing logistics for field season and providing support to other programs. He will also help organize data and maintain databases.

Eric is an avid recycling fan, who has taken the lead in recycling office materials. Originally from Kentucky, he was most recently a seasonal wildlife technician for the Shasta Trinity NF. Prior to that, he worked for a consulting company in Eugene, Oregon.

Eric also spent four seasons on the Routt NF as a seasonal wildlife technician. During the off-season, he worked wildlife jobs in northern Colorado and southern Arizona.

Eric received his Bachelor's degree in Biology from Southern Wesleyan University in South Carolina. He then went to Colorado State University for a second Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology.

Eric enjoys camping, hiking and backpacking. He also enjoys travel and music.

"I'm excited to be part of a growing and progressive wildlife program," Eric says. "I look forward to helping with the wise management that our wildlife deserves in the broad and diverse landscape we manage."

- Toni Kelly

DOLORES NEWS

Jeremy's a Cowboy and a Chemist

DOLORES – The Dolores Office has a new Range Technician watching over both FS and BLM grazing allotments. Jeremy Sowards' duties will include caring for the office horse stock and assisting in production monitoring.

Jeremy is originally from Manassa, Colorado, south of Alamosa. He worked as a range and wildlife seasonal for the Conejos RD on the Rio Grande NF, surveying for Management Indicator Species and amphibians for proposed timber sale projects, along with range duties. Prior to that, Jeremy worked for two seasons at the BLM Blanca Wetland Area out of the La Jara Field Office surveying for micro-invertebrate, amphibians, birds, water quality and weeds.

Jeremy grew up working his grandfather's cattle ranch, where he learned hay production and caring for livestock. In addition, he worked as a Veterinarian Technician for a large and small animal clinic.

A graduate of Adams State College, Jeremy received his Bachelor's degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology, with a minor in Chemistry.

"I only lack one class to receive a degree in chemistry, and every year, I debate whether I should go back and finish so that I can get my Chemistry degree, too," Jeremy says.

Jeremy comes from a large family of six boys and one girl. In his spare time, he enjoys team roping with his two horses. "I don't do it for competition, just for fun", he says.

- Toni Kelly



DOLORES & CANM/AHC NEWS



The Karchuts are in Wyoming

DOLORES - Bryan Karchut, Engine Captain for the West Zone, and wife, Marissa, Visitor Services and Volunteer Coordinator for the Anasazi Heritage Center and Canyons of the Ancients, recently left Dolores and transferred to the Bridger-Teton NF in Region 4.

Bryan accepted a position as Assistant Fire Management Officer, and Marissa is the Executive Assistant to the Forest Supervisor. Bryan started his career on the San Juan in 1996 as a seasonal, red-carded archaeologist. He also worked at the AHC and in Mesa Verde National Park on the Post-Fire Assessment Team.

Marissa grew up in Montrose and began her museum career at the Ute Indian Museum, a Colorado state historic site. In 1997 she began volunteering at the AHC while finishing

her undergraduate degree at Fort Lewis College, and in 2000 she returned as a contractor, processing incoming artifact collections. In 2001, while completing her Master's degree, Marissa was hired a trainee through the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). Her first big project was design and installation of the museum's lobby exhibit on Canyons of the Ancients.

Marissa was also the museum's volunteer coordinator. She recruited, trained and managed a diverse group of volunteers. In 2005, over 80 individuals contributed over 7,000 hours to the museum, earning national recognition from the BLM in 2006, with Marissa receiving a "Making a Difference" award on behalf of the museum's volunteer program.

"We really miss our friends and family in Colorado, but are enjoying new opportunities."

Bryan and Marissa have one son, Austin, 2, who has also made the transition to his new home well.

- Michael Williams

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AHC/CANM NEWS

Rene Joins Our Crew

DOLORES - Rene Farias is the new Anasazi Heritage Center Administrative Assistant and Visitor Services Specialist. A native of northwestern Montana, she attended Montana State University and Dixie College in Utah. Her family moved to the Four Corners four years ago from Yellowstone National Park.

"I more or less grew up in the National Park Service, working for 20 years in six western parks," Rene says.

This is Rene's first assignment with the BLM. Recently she has been teaching at the Children's Kiva Preschool in Cortez.

"Imagine keeping track of forty 3, 4 and 5 year-olds for six hours a day," she says. "Along with a whole new respect for teachers, I also learned quickly how to avoid wet sneezes." That's good practice for the Heritage Center's busy school group season!

Rene currently lives in Mesa Verde National Park with her husband Jessie and two boys; Cody, 3 ½, and Neil, 6, along with Salsa, their chocolate Labrador retriever.

In her leisure time, Rene likes to bicycle, landscape, watch her kids play T-ball and soccer, and dabble in watercolor painting. Camping is high on the list of weekend activities, along with fishing and exploring the Four Corners region.

"My husband gardens, but I help by eating all the fresh vegetables," she says.



- Michael Williams

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