



November 2015

Ranger Roundup

Allison Jackson, Acting Wilderness District Ranger

As the Acting District Ranger at Wilderness Ranger District, my arrival found me reflecting on the 1907 Yale School of Forestry graduates and *Man and Nature*, George Perkins Marsh's 1864, philosophy of land stewardship and service to people. The first chief of the Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot having studied Marshall's works, coined seven words "Caring for the Land and Serving People" as the forest service mission.

Come visit our forest! Over the next year, visitors may encounter forest employees conducting national visitor use monitoring surveys to evaluate visitor use levels and visitor satisfaction. Participation in this survey will help guide future recreation planning across the forest.

A variety of recreation opportunities await you on the Wilderness Ranger District. Recreation sites remain open all year. One may go birding along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, travel along the Trail of the Mountain Spirits Scenic Byway accessed from the junction of NM 180 and 152, bike or drive along 152 east to Hwy 35, and view scenic fall colors and sunrises.

At Lake Roberts, recently filled by springs and monsoon rains, enjoy fall fishing and boating. To experience the



Lightning over Lake Roberts

serenity of the caves, drive to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument with a picnic lunch. Though cooler weather makes it appealing to experience the natural hot springs in the area, be aware of the potential for rapidly changing weather.



Gila Cliff Dwellings

In the McKenna Park area, listen for the howling of the Mexican gray wolf. As the new moon becomes a full moon, wildlife becomes nocturnal, grazing by night, slumbering by day, and challenging hunter patience, prudence and survival skills.

Remember our honored veterans and celebrate a forest visit with them, taking photos, leaving artifacts in place and preserving your memories for Thanksgiving tales.

Be prepared and carry emergency equipment, food and water with you. It is important to share itineraries with dependable contacts.

Please review camping and hunting information, trail conditions and weather forecasts at the Wilderness Ranger District in Mimbres Valley. Information is also available online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/gila/>.

We hope you enjoy your trip to the Wilderness Ranger District!