

The Gila Monster



Credit Christa Osborn

Gila National Forest
November 2015

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The Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) for Travel Management has gone to the printer, nice job Brian!



Forest Supervisor's Message

As we finish off this calendar year, I want to say Thank You to all of our employees including those that will be leaving us. I am proud to be a part of the Gila National Forest.

As such, I expect great things from the Gila National Forest which I believe starts with the leadership. It is important for employees to know that the leadership team has focused on two primary topics over the past few months: Workforce Planning and Setting a Program of Work.



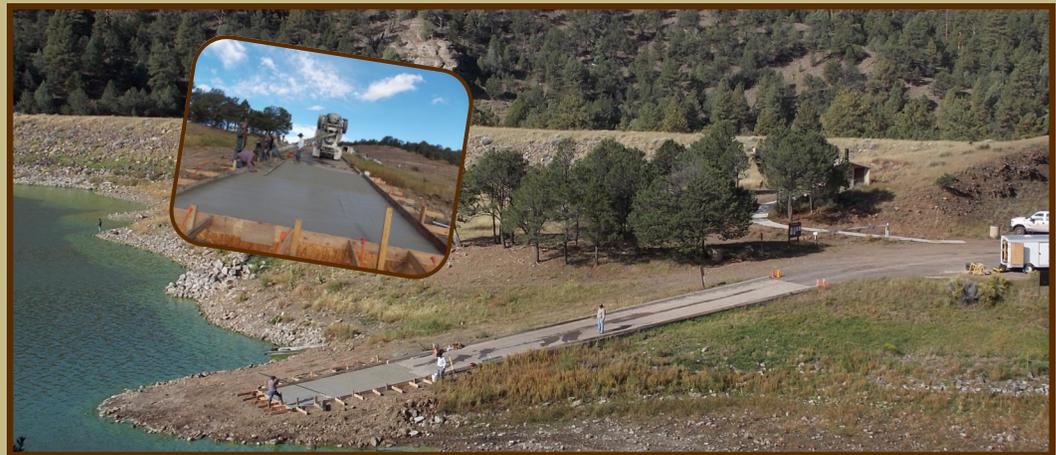
San Francisco River, Brian Delgado

Workforce Planning: The forest completed a comprehensive workforce planning effort in 2013; however, this type of work continues. The Regional Office has defined expectations for each forest as they relate to workforce planning; the forest will be working to meet those expectations. In addition, the forest has a continual need to evaluate our workforce so that it aligns with our program of work and our budget. Employees should expect to see more on this topic.

Setting a Program of Work: The forest will implement a new process for setting our program of work. This new process is intended to ensure the forest has a balanced workload that everyone understands. The new process will take time to implement but employees will see portions of this new process this fiscal year.

Again, thanks for all that you do!

Quemado Lake Boat Ramp Extension, October 2015



Youth Engagement

Under the 2012 Planning Rule, we are required to provide outreach to youth and other underrepresented groups during Forest Plan Revision. To accomplish this, we've partnered with Dr. Kathy Whiteman of WNMU to develop tools and techniques for these groups such as a web survey and hands-on activities. These techniques got their first test with the Aldo Leopold Middle School in November where 60 students learned about forest ecology (including fire dynamics) from Mitchel White, fire science from Jessica Ybarra, and forest planning from Kathy Whiteman including gathering input for the plan.

Scenery Management System

As part of Forest Plan Revision, we are required to update the Gila NF Scenery Management System. The current Visual Quality Objectives for the Forest date back to the early -1980's. We received funding from the RO to complete the Scenery Management System update, which will take approximately a year to complete. Jan Spencer, a landscape architect from TEAMS, is the point person on this project, and has experience in developing these systems for other Forests in the Region. She visited the North Zone in October for an introductory training session and concern level workshop as well as driving tours around the Districts. Similar events are scheduled for the South Zone in January.



Brief History of the Jewett Ranger Station, Apache National Forest

The Jewett Ranger District was established in 1910 and was part of the Datil National Forest (photo titled: Jewett Ranger District, 1910). The Jewett Ranger Station was located near the base of Queens Head. Mr. John F. Russell was the first District Ranger. Facilities at the Jewett Ranger Station included an office, the Ranger's house, barn, and corrals (Photo titled: Corrals).

This remote Ranger Station experienced personal hardships in the early years. District Ranger Russell's young daughter died of diphtheria in 1911 and Otto Davis a trapper and prospector, is believed to have frozen to death during a January snow in 1918 while looking for his team of horses.

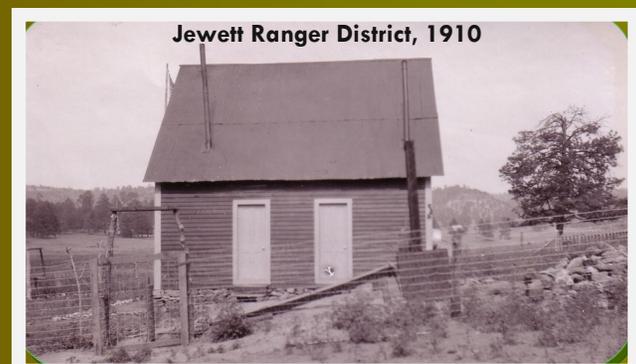
In 1925, the Jewett Ranger District was transferred to the Apache National Forest from the Datil National Forest. In 1963, the Jewett Ranger Station was moved from Jewett to Quemado, NM. The Jewett Ranger District officially became the Quemado Ranger District in 1971. In a memo to the Forest Supervisor the following reasons were cited; Quemado had become the point of reference and center of activity for the District, the NM Department of Game and Fish was developing "Quemado Lake" and the District Ranger had discussed the proposed change with the locals and the sentiment at the time was in favor of the name change.

Over the years, the old Jewett Ranger Station has changed. The Ranger's house, barn, and corrals are no longer on site. The grave markers for Otto Davis and toddler Frances Russell remain. When one visits this historic landscape the foundation for the office, barn, and house are still visible.

In 2011, the Jewett Ranger Station barn was removed. The barn was being used exclusively for storage of range supplies, water tanks, and miscellaneous pieces of equipment and metal. This material was left on site. This year, Quemado District employees and the Gila's North Zone Archaeologist successfully completed a district work-day and removed seven trailers of material. This effort has helped restore this historic landscape to its original character – as Mr. John F. Russell may have seen it in 1910 from the back of his horse.



Graves and text below



Jewett Ranger District, 1910

These two graves are located ~ 100yds. East from the old Jewett Ranger Station. The markers state:

INFANT FRANCES RUSSELL

Born July 23, 1908

Died Jan. 11, 1911

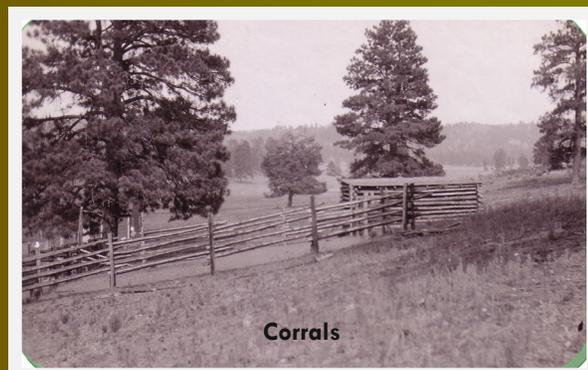
"Frances died of diphtheria. A doctor summoned from Reserve NM, couldn't make the horseback ride fast enough to save her. She was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Russell. Russell was the first Jewett District Ranger (1910-1911).

OTTO DAVIS

Born Unknown

Died January 1918

"Otto Davis, trapper and prospector, is believed to have frozen to death during a January snow while looking for his team of horses. His body was found at the junction of Hwy 32 & Sawmill Road after the March thaw."



Corrals

Meet the Gila - Andrew Bryant, Range Con

Andrew Bryant began his new position as Range Conservation at Glenwood in September. He graduated from Humboldt State University (HSU) in December 2014 with a degree in Rangeland Resource Science. But, in reality his degree was only half of his education in Range; the other half of the credit would have to go to the Range Staff at New Meadows RD on the Payette NF in Idaho. He spent two of his summers at HSU in Idaho working for the USFS on the Payette. During this time Andrew says, "I fell in love with the Forest. After college, I got a job with a friend landscaping to hold me over until I could find a job in range."

He grew up in Atwater, Ca with a little sister and brother. After high school he spent a few years at Merced Community College, which is in the next town over. During his time at MCC he thought about majoring in a few different disciplines. His favorite classes included cellular biology, microbiology, and soil science. He finally realized, however, that as much as he enjoyed sciences, he liked using his hands, his brain and working outside. After talking to a recruiter, he decided Rangeland Management was the way to go. He adds, "It is an ecological science that draws from other disciplines. This allows range to be both stimulating and diverse."

While at HSU he met his future wife, Hailey, who he married earlier this year. Andrew says he enjoys working on the Gila and living in the southwest. One reason is the change in geology and botany, primarily the different grasses. He adds it is nice to live in a beautiful location with a small community.

Favorite activities include: hiking, fishing, and cutting wood

Favorite music: ranges from baroque to neoclassical

Favorite book: [The Hobbit](#)

Welcome to the Gila NF Andrew!



Frontliner Safety Workshop

What is an effective barrier between you and the public? What are the main concepts used in anger de-escalation? What are five security components of an ideal reception area? These were some of the topics covered during frontliner safety training held on the Gila National Forest Oct. 16. Fifteen employees participated in the safety workshop presented by Orlando Valles, Punky Moore, Mike Nova and Juan Ortiz.

The training involved breaking into groups to discuss SAFE visitor management practices, recognize possible hostile situations and practice giving description details that are needed to identify a suspicious person (played by our own Matt Schultz). The training also presented an opportunity for frontliners who speak on a regular basis to meet in person. Some of the comments received from the workshop were, "This was great training," "We need this annually," and "It's good to know there is support for our actions to keep ourselves safe." An outcome from this workshop will be additional security training in the future.



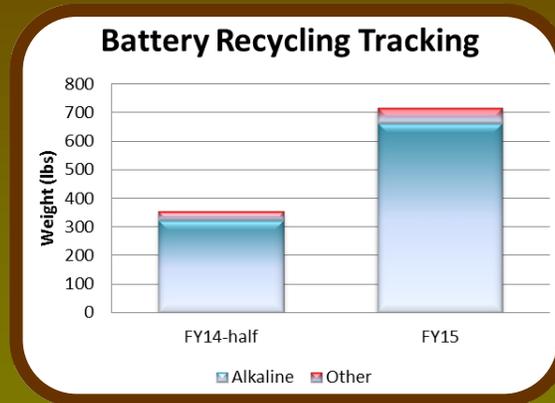
What does Diversity Day mean to you?

Employees gathered at Camp Thunderbird October 23 for the annual Diversity Day. The Civil Rights Advisory Group (CRAG), formerly known as ACE, presented information and facilitated discussions about the Forest's Civil Rights program. Elizabeth Toney and Jason Quimby presented information about what the CRAG is, its function and body of work, and who is involved. Small group discussions centered on answering two questions, 1) "From the handout listing the CRAG's work, which is most important to you and why?" and 2) "What can the CRAG and/or leadership do to cultivate active support for this work and recruit participatory membership to the CRAG?" The input received from these discussions will be used to develop a Program of Work and inform the Tactical Plan. The Diversity Day discussion summaries, the handouts and powerpoint presentation will be circulating within the next several weeks. Training days are being scheduled for December with the R3 Acting Director of Civil Rights. The training will be approximately half a day and will be available via VTC.



Over 1,000 lbs. of Batteries Recycled

The Forest battery recycling program started in the middle of Fiscal Year 2014. Buckets were distributed to all of the district offices, work stations, SO, fire cache, and Hudson Street. In FY2014, 355 lbs. of batteries were recycled, and in FY2015, 717 lbs. That's over 1,000 lbs. of batteries!



The majority of the recycling consists of alkaline batteries (92%) and the rest have been batteries consisting of lithium, zinc carbon, nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, and lead acid.

Keep up the great job!

Wilderness Volunteers on the CDT

In late September, Wilderness Volunteers and the north zone worked together improving 1/4 mile of trail on the Continental Divide Trail. Wilderness Volunteers is a national organization that runs service projects throughout the year and the country. This is the 7th week-long event they have worked on the CDT with the north zone. The group contributed 352 volunteer hours on the project. There was a wide cross section of people, from retirees, yoga teachers, financial planners, and railroad engineers, to landscapers and IT personnel.

The section they worked on is difficult, both technically and logistically. This segment consisted of mostly rock with interspersed soil along the way, so long hours were spent on rock removal, which is often more of a team sport versus an individual race. This group consisted of only one person from New Mexico, the other states represented were; California, Oregon, Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. Despite the fact that weather conditions were less than ideal (they got poured on for a couple days); spirits were high. This group worked together wonderfully, with much laughter and encouragement. Wilderness Volunteers already has two trips planned for 2016 on the Reserve Ranger District, one in the late spring and one in the early fall.



CDT construction, John Danek

Safety - Information for Hunters and Non-Hunters

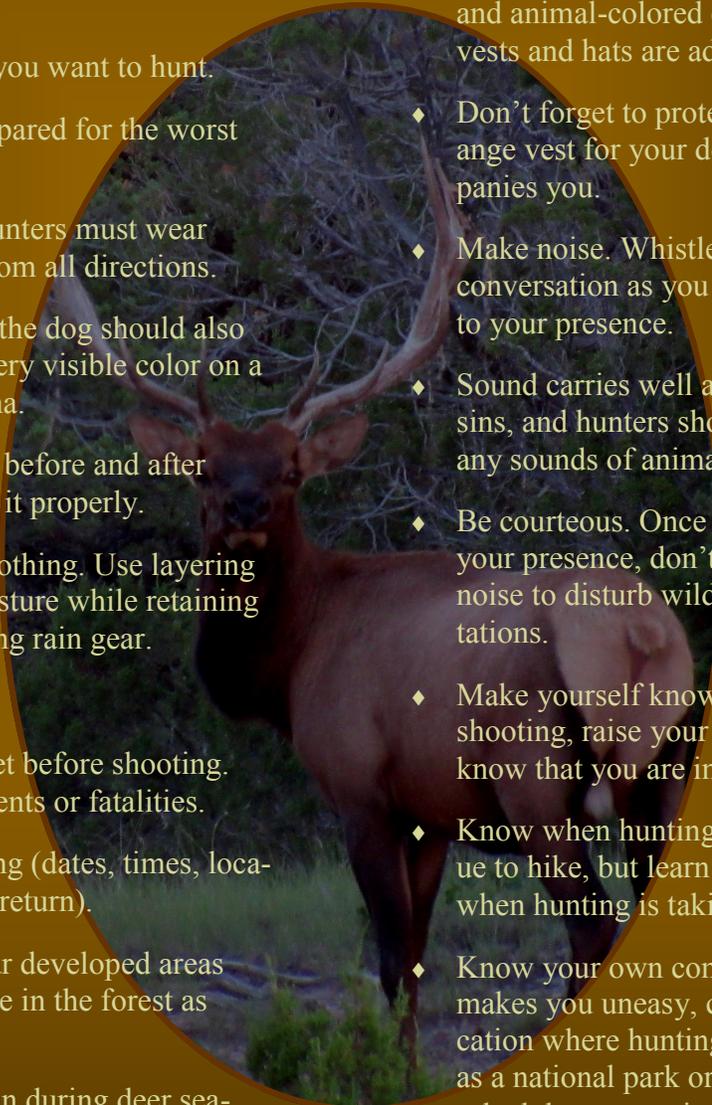
National forests are a refuge for wild animals of all kinds, which makes recreational activities like hunting and wildlife viewing possible. Hunting is a seasonal activity. State regulations for seasons, dates and licensing apply on national forest land. These tips can help keep you safe whether you are hunting, recreating on the forest or working in the field.

Safety Tips for Hunters

- ◆ Check weather reports before visiting the forest.
- ◆ Tell someone where you will be hunting and when you will return.
- ◆ Be familiar with the area you want to hunt.
- ◆ Dress properly and be prepared for the worst possible conditions.
- ◆ During certain seasons, hunters must wear hunter orange viewable from all directions.
- ◆ If accompanied by a dog, the dog should also wear hunter orange or a very visible color on a vest, leash, coat or bandana.
- ◆ Check hunting equipment before and after each outing, and maintain it properly.
- ◆ Carry a spare set of dry clothing. Use layering techniques to prevent moisture while retaining body warmth. Always bring rain gear.
- ◆ Carry a first aid kit.
- ◆ Clearly identify your target before shooting. Prevent unfortunate accidents or fatalities.
- ◆ Put hunting plans in writing (dates, times, location and expected time of return).
- ◆ Be alert when hunting near developed areas and trails. Other people are in the forest as well.
- ◆ Avoid wearing white or tan during deer season. Wear hunter orange or another highly visible color.

Safety Tips for Non-Hunters

- ◆ Wear bright clothing. Make yourself more visible. Choose colors that stand out, like red, orange or green, and avoid white, blacks, browns, earth-toned greens and animal-colored clothing. Orange vests and hats are advisable.
- ◆ Don't forget to protect Fido. Get an orange vest for your dog if he/she accompanies you.
- ◆ Make noise. Whistle, sing or carry on a conversation as you walk to alert hunters to your presence.
- ◆ Sound carries well across mountain basins, and hunters should be listening for any sounds of animal movement.
- ◆ Be courteous. Once a hunter is aware of your presence, don't make unnecessary noise to disturb wildlife. Avoid confrontations.
- ◆ Make yourself known. If you do hear shooting, raise your voice and let hunters know that you are in the vicinity.
- ◆ Know when hunting seasons are. Continue to hike, but learn about where and when hunting is taking place.
- ◆ Know your own comfort level. If hunting makes you uneasy, choose a hike in a location where hunting is not allowed, such as a national park or a state park, or schedule your outings for Sundays.



Making Tracks

New Faces, Promotions, Details

Dustin Myers, new appointment to Fish Biologist, SO, 9/20/15

Andrew Bryant, new appointment to Rangeland Management Specialist, Glenwood RD, 9/20/15

Alex Tovar, promotion to Supply Management Specialist, SO, 10/4/15

Anne Casey, promotion to District Ranger, Glenwood RD, 11/15/15

Rachelle Huddleston-Lorton, reassignment to District Ranger, Wilderness RD, 11/29/15

Wayne Witty, conversion to career conditional appt/promotion to Rangeland Management Specialist, Quemado RD, 10/4/15

Yolanda De La O, reassignment to Visitor Service Information Assistant, Reserve RD, 11/1/15

Dorothy Carrejo, reassignment to Visitor Service Information Assistant, Quemado RD, 11/1/15

Rick Lathrop, reassignment to Visitor Service Information Assistant, Glenwood RD, 1/2015

James Apodaca, detail to Natural Resource Specialist (Rec) on Forest Plan Revision team, from Black Range RD, 9/6/15

Kendall Brown, temp promotion to District Ranger, Glenwood RD, 9/6/15

Matthew Taliaferro, temp promotion to Asst. Forest Archaeologist, SO, 9/6/15

Jesse Searles, temp promotion to Fuels Specialist, Silver City RD, 10/4/15

Harry (Justin) Romero, temp promotion to Supervisory Forestry Tech Silver City RD, 10/18/15

Erin Knolles, temp promotion to Archaeologist, Allegheny NF, 8/9/15

Good-Byes

Sara Marta, Rangeland Management Specialist, transferred to NRCS 8/9/15

Joe Trujillo, Office Automation Clerk, transferred to VA 9/5/15

Victoria Gilbert, Forestry Technician, retired 10/31/15

George Norris, Customer Service Representative, transferred to BLM, 5/1/15

Tim Bertrand, LE&I Patrol Captain, retired 10/31/15

Sean Brown, Range Staff, transferred to GMUG NF 11/30/15



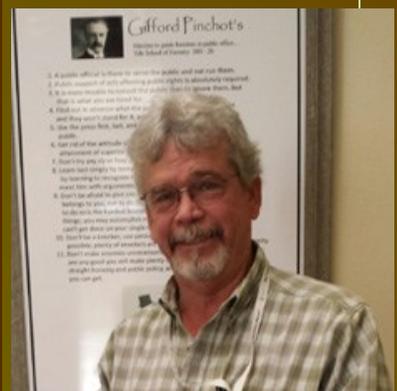
Victoria Gilbert



Tim Bertrand



Stephen and Sarah are expecting a Baby Girl 1/15/16



Larry Cosper retires 12/31/15

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