

# SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

## National Monument Plan Sets Stage for Future



**PAGOSA SPRINGS** - The Chimney Rock National Monument Management Plan, which was completed this winter, sets the stage for construction of interpretive trails, visitor facilities and additional parking; and extension of the season of operation at the new National Monument established by Presidential Proclamation in 2012.

Public involvement was extensive to ensure the management plan is responsive to the provisions of the Proclamation and to take into account public and tribal concerns.

“The plan takes the Proclamation’s overarching guidance and offers specific management actions that we can use to redeem our responsibilities as stewards of the Monument’s natural and cultural resources, and help the American public enjoy and learn from this unique area,” says Pagosa District Ranger Kevin Khung.

The plan seeks to protect the monument’s nationally significant archaeological objects, visual and landscape characteristics, geological and biological features, and cultural and educational values by enacting some changes. Peterson Ridge has been closed to livestock grazing, and the entire Monument is closed to camping and over-snow motorized vehicles. Rock climbing and other public uses are not allowed in the immediate vicinity of the rock spires to protect nesting Peregrine falcons. Horses and dogs are not allowed on interpretive trails, and mountain bikes and motor vehicles are allowed only on designated roads.

Chimney Rock is open to public tours from May 15 - September 30, with its Visitor Center available most days. The nonprofit Chimney Rock Interpretive Association offers guided tours seven days a week. Its mission is to provide for public interpretation and education at the Monument under special-use permit with the USFS.

The National Monument encompasses 4,726 acres of the San Juan NF between Durango and Pagosa Springs. Its network of prehistoric sites lie within a scenic landscape surrounding the twin spires of Chimney Rock and Companion Rock. The area was inhabited by the ancestors of modern Pueblo Indians, and as such, holds spiritual significance for many Southwestern tribes.

The Ancestral Puebloans built hundreds of homes and ceremonial buildings high above the valley floor at Chimney Rock near the twin rock pinnacles. Some structures have been excavated and stabilized for public viewing and educational purposes. Many are very important for their research value.

Chimney Rock is the northeastern-most Chacoan outlier and one of the highest elevation Ancestral Puebloan sites. It is thought that the location may have been chosen by the Ancestral Puebloans because it offers an ideal spot for tracking the movements of the sun and moon.

- Ann Bond



## SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER

### Think Safety this Field Season

It's almost field season, and with that, almost fire season. Regionally, and nationally, our agency has been holding a lot of conversations around fire and safety. Last year, the Forest Service tragically lost seven wildland firefighters, deeply affecting our employees across the nation. Our agency is a small world when it comes down to it, and our paths cross often.

Firefighter and public safety are top priorities in wildland fire management, and the agency's goal is for every firefighter (every employee!) to come home safely from every assignment. Discussions on how to practice sound risk management, avoid unnecessary risk or exposure, and achieve zero fatalities are taking place throughout the agency. USFS Chief Tom Tidwell and his leadership team take this very seriously and are dedicating their time to this effort.

Here on the San Juan, we are engaging in these discussions, as well as taking other proactive approaches to avoid putting firefighters in harm's way. One of the ways we can do this is by reducing hazardous fuels, especially in the wildland urban interface.

Through collaboration and joint efforts with our partners, the San Juan NF has secured more than \$1 million over the last couple of years for this purpose, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Colorado State Forest Service have also received funding to help with fuel-reduction efforts across boundaries on private lands.



- Kara Chadwick, San Juan NF Supervisor

### Aiming for Net Zero



**DURANGO** - As the federal government strives to become energy efficient and reduce consumption, the *USFS Net Zero Project* is helping National Forests save

money, reduce waste and use renewable resources.

The San Juan NF Green Team won two *Net Zero* grants this year. A Start-up Award of \$2,000 will fund plans to reduce energy consumption at the Dolores Public Lands Center.

A Project Award of \$36,700 will help the Columbine Ranger District reduce water consumption and improve drainage at its Bayfield Office. It will also fund low-flow toilets and high-efficiency fixtures at the Vallecito Work Center, and a side-roll irrigation system at the Cole Ranch Work Center.

- Christy Garrou

### San Juan NF Sustainability Projects

**Project:** Install LED lights at Durango Tanker Base parking lot  
**Annual Energy Reduction:** 13,600 KWH\*  
**Annual Carbon Footprint Reduction:** 23,900 lbs. less CO2 emissions

**Project:** Connect McPhee to municipal water supply  
**Annual Energy Reduction:** 26,000 KWH  
**Annual Water Reduction:** 780,000 gallons  
**Annual Carbon Footprint Reduction:** 45,760 lbs. less CO2 emissions

**Project:** Demolish McPhee Marina lift/fish-clean stations, replace toilet  
**Annual Energy Reduction:** 4,900 KWH  
**Annual Water Reduction:** 32,000 gallons  
**Annual Carbon Footprint Reduction:** 8,600 lbs. less CO2 emissions

**Project:** Eliminate McPhee sewage treatment plant  
**Annual Energy Reduction:** 31,000 KWH  
**Annual Carbon Footprint Reduction:** 54,560 lbs. less CO2 emissions

**Project:** Retrofit fluorescent office fixtures to LED lamps  
**Annual Energy Reduction:** 2,600 KWH  
**Annual Carbon Footprint Reduction:** 4,600 lbs. less CO2 emissions

(\*KWH=Kilowatt Hour)

# SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER



## Christy Named Operations Assistant

**DURANGO** - Christy Garrou, San Juan NF Administrative Support Clerk since 2011, has been named the Forest's new Administrative Operations Assistant. She'll be helping with hiring, human resources, computer services, Regional Office responses, training coordination, meetings management, procurement, and requisitioning. She also be handling Visitor Information at the PLC Front Desk one day a week.

Christy came to the San Juan NF from Aztec, New Mexico, where she worked in Rural Development. Prior to that, she was a Park Ranger for several years at Capitol Reef and Mount Rainier NPs, and Natural Bridges National Monument. She was also a photographer for Mesa Verde NP.

Christy holds a Bachelor's degree in Commercial Art from Appalachian State University in North Carolina. She enjoys bicycling, hiking, skiing, movies, painting, and taking care of her home in Mancos with husband, Don Corbeil, which they

share with their dogs, Luska and Dotti.

"I look forward to helping staff with the hiring process and want to become a good resource for Human Resource procedures," Christy says.

- Ann Bond



## Mary Shifts Engineering Focus

**DURANGO** - Mary Blanchard, San Juan NF Facilities Engineer, is now an Environmental Engineer for the USFS Enterprise Technical Services Group. Her home base is still the PLC, but this virtual position requires travel across the country to work on water, waste-water, and hazardous-materials projects.

Mary came to the San Juan in 2004 as Civil Engineer. She went on to serve as Travel Management Coordinator, Acting Forest Engineer, Lead Civil Engineer and Coordinator for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and Interdisciplinary Team member on the joint USFS/BLM Resource Management Plan.

Mary holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Florida. She is especially proud of her work on economic stimulus projects on the San Juan NF.

"ARRA brought over \$12 million in funding to the San Juan that allowed us to perform dozens of critically needed projects, including fuels mitigation, noxious weeds inventory and treatment, restoration of heritage sites and maintenance of

roads, trails and recreation sites," she says.

"It brought work to economically depressed counties in southwestern Colorado and provided training for the Veterans Green Jobs Program."

Mary was also instrumental in the Forest's Sustainability Program and oversaw various projects to improve energy efficiency and water conservation.

These include retrofitting lighting at administrative facilities and reconfiguring water and wastewater systems to reduce water consumption and energy costs.

- Ann Bond



San Juan Public Lands Center, Durango

## SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER



### Liz Retires

**DURANGO** - Elizabeth (Liz) Haydon, San Juan NF Executive Assistant since 2006, retired after the first of the year. Liz began her federal career in 1975 as an Army Clerk in Stuttgart, Germany. In 1980, she moved to Wiesbaden, Germany, as Facilities Engineer Work Order and Supply Clerk.

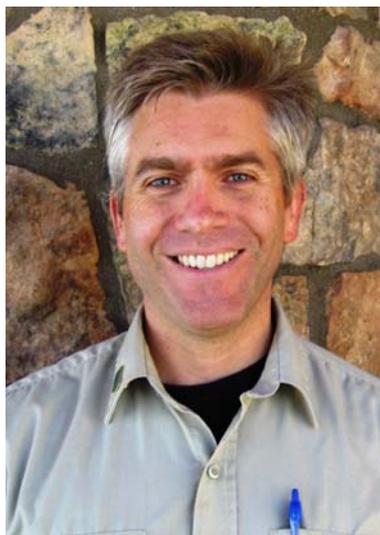
Liz moved back to the states in 1984 as an Army Clerk in Fort McClellan, Alabama, then came to Colorado in 1986 as an Air Force Supply Clerk and Housing and Urban Development Realty Clerk.

In 1988, Liz became a Detention and Deportation Assistant for the Department of Justice (DOJ) in Denver. In 1995, she secured the job of DOJ Administrative Officer in Bangkok, Thailand, then flew back across the ocean to Kokomo, Indiana, to work as a Clerk for the Department of Commerce Census Bureau in 2000. Two years later, Liz went to work as Secretary for the DOJ Trustees Office in South Bend, Indiana.

Her retirement plans include quilting, gardening, reading, sewing and spending time with husband Rick, son James, and daughter Brandi.

“I believe I brought a great level of customer service to my customers - the employees of the San Juan National Forest,” Liz says. “I hope I also provided a good ear for those needing to be heard.”

- Ann Bond



### Jeremiah Arrives

**DURANGO** - Jeremiah Hyslop is the new Executive Assistant in the Supervisor's Office, providing support to the Forest Supervisor and Forest Leadership Team. He will also serve as program coordinator for the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act and assist with Records Management.

“The skills Jeremiah brings to the San Juan include administrative, interpretive, and partnership coordination,” says Kara Chadwick, Forest Supervisor.

Jeremiah comes from the Arapaho and Roosevelt NF and Pawnee NG (ARP), where he has been Visitor Information Specialist on the Clear Creek RD since 2004. He recently completed a detail in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office as Visitor Information/Support Services Specialist, and in 2013, served a detail in the Washington Office in State and Private Forestry.

From 2000 to 2004, Jeremiah was Visitor Information Assistant on the ARP's Sulphur RD. Prior, he was an interpretive Park Ranger at Rocky Mountain NP, Fort Union Trading Post National Historical Site and Death Valley NP.

Jeremiah is certified through the National Association for Interpretation as a Guide and Trainer and holds a degree in Recreation and Parks Management from Penn State University. He enjoys tennis, golf, snowboarding, XC skiing, softball, volleyball, hiking and yoga. He has a golden retriever, Tocho, which is Hopi for mountain lion.

“I couldn't be happier about my new position,” he says. “Working at the Supervisor's Office will allow me to learn from skilled leaders.”

- Ann Bond



## SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER



### Lindsey is New Range Program Manager

**DURANGO** - Lindsey Hansen is the new San Juan NF Range, Invasives and Ecology Program Manager. She was most recently Assistant BLM Tres Rios Field Office Manager for Renewable Resources at the Dolores Public Lands Office.

Lindsey holds a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture/Range Science from New Mexico State University, where she rode for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association.

Her federal career began in 2003 as a student Range Technician on the Coconino NF and then, the BLM Farmington Field Office. In 2004, Lindsey became Rangeland Management Specialist in Farmington and later, Natural Resource Specialist and Administrative Officer. In 2009, she transferred to the BLM Rio Puerco Field Office as Assistant Field Manager.

In 2011, Lindsey moved to Washington State as Associate District Manager for the BLM Spokane District Office. She returned to the BLM Farmington Field Office as a Project Manager in 2012, then transferred to the Tres Rios Field Office in 2016. Lindsey has two daughters; Jasey, 9, and Zoe, 6, who keep her busy. She enjoys riding her horses, Missy and Whiskey, downhill skiing, camping, and most outdoor activities.

"I am excited to work on the San Juan with such friendly dedicated people," she says.

- Anthony Madrid, SJNF Renewable Resources



### Vicky Retires

**DURANGO** - Vicky Duvall, Information Technology (IT) Specialist/Infrastructure (Infra) Database Coordinator, retired this winter after 16 years on the San Juan NF and 40 years with the USFS. Vicky began her federal career in 1974 on the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF Salmon River RD in Idaho, where she worked two summers as a student-aid/clerk typist, and was soon hired on as Resource Assistant, Receptionist and Clerk.

In 1983, Vicky moved to Virginia, to work as Collections Clerk for the Department of Justice/US Attorney's Office in Roanoke, and then as Business Management Assistant for the George Washington-Jefferson NF's Blacksburg RD.

In 1985, she moved to the USFS Washington Office as Program Assistant for Recreation. In 1988, Vicky moved over to WO Program Development and Budget Staff as Program Assistant, then went back to Recreation as Supervisory Program Analyst.

In 1990 Vicky was stationed on the Medicine Bow-Routt NF in Steamboat Springs as a WO Computer Assistant/INFRA Coordinator. She and husband, Ron, San Juan NF Administrative Staff Officer, arrived on the San Juan NF in 1999, where Vicky continued to work for the WO as IT Specialist/Infra Coordinator.

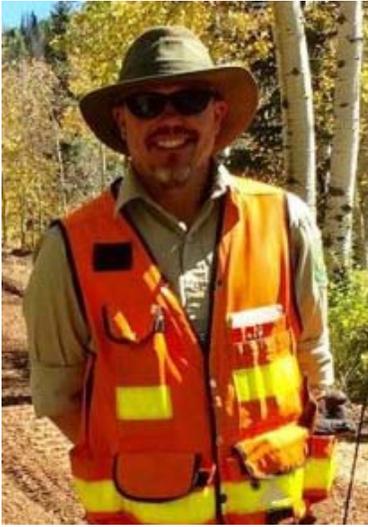
- Ann Bond

## Ironing Out the Details

**DURANGO** - In the Supervisor's Office, **Ben Martinez**, San Juan NF Staff Officer for Engineering, Fleet, Minerals and Geology, is serving temporarily as USFS On-Scene Coordinator working with the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the National Priorities List resulting from last summer's Gold King spill into the Animas River. During that time, Pagosa District Ranger **Kevin Khung** will be commuting to Durango as Acting Staff for Engineering, Fleet, Minerals and Geology in Durango. Meanwhile, in Pagosa Springs, **Anthony Garcia**, Pagosa Wildlife Staff, will fill in as Deputy Pagosa District Ranger, and **Brandy Richardson**, Pagosa RD Wildlife Biologist, will detail in behind Anthony.

- Kara Chadwick

## SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER



### Chris Heads East

**DURANGO** - Chris Phelps from the San Juan NF Engineering Team headed for the Daniel Boone NF in Kentucky this spring to work as a Civil Engineering Technician after 10 years on the San Juan NF.

Chris started here as a Survey Aid in 2005 under the Student Temporary Employment Program, while pursuing his environmental degree from Fort Lewis College. In 2006 he returned as Surveying Technician, and in 2007, was offered a position as Civil Engineering Technician.

Since graduating from Centennial High School in Pueblo, Chris has visited more than 30 different countries on six continents, and is an internationally certified life boat captain.

“Working on the San Juan has been a delight, Chris says. “The greatest thing that I have learned is that communication is the key to any successful project.”

- Ann Bond



### Annett is New Fleet Manager

**DURANGO** - Annett Hitchell, former San Juan NF Fleet Assistant, has been named Fleet Manager overseeing vehicles and heavy equipment on the San Juan NF. Annett started with the San Juan in drafting in 1980. After working summers on the survey crew, she became Survey Crew Boss in 1983. She continued to work in drafting in the winters until receiving a permanent position in 1990.

In 1996 Annett was named Office Manager for the Supervisor’s Office. In 2001 she worked in Budget, then in 2004, moved into Engineering Administration, which was when she first started helping with Fleet, among other duties. Annett graduated from Durango High School and studied at Fort Lewis College for one year. She is excited about her new position.

- Ann Bond



### Cara Departs

**DOLORES** - Cara Gildar, San Juan NF NEPA Planner, has left the USFS to study craniosacral therapy and start a practice. Cara arrived on the Dolores RD as Ecologist in 2004 and became NEPA Planner a year and a half ago. She started her USFS career as a Fire Lookout on the Flathead NF Hungry Horse RD and went on to work as Botanist for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands McKenzie RD.

Cara looks forward to spending time with family and volunteering at her six-year-old son Emmett’s school. She enjoys hiking, biking, XC skiing, reading, and growing and using edible and medicinal plants.

Cara is proud of establishing a Native Plant Materials Program for the San Juan NF and BLM Tres Rios Field Office focused on developing commercial availability of native plants for reclamation and restoration of degraded landscapes.

“We collected and tested over 50 species and found eight that hold promise for commercial production,” she says. Cara holds a Bachelor’s degree in Zoology with a Minor in English from the University of Florida, and a Master’s degree in Forestry from Northern Arizona University.

“Working for the Forest Service has been an exciting, challenging and rewarding career,” she says.

- Ann Bond

## COLUMBINE RANGER DISTRICT



### Clayton Heads to BIA

**BAYFIELD** - Clayton Rizzi, Captain of Engine 682 on the Columbine RD for the past three years, has left the USFS to work as Engine Captain for the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

Clayton came to the San Juan in 2013 after working as Squad Boss for the Cleveland NF Palomar Hotshots. He was also Fire Engine Operator and Assistant Fire Engine Operator on the Cleveland NF, and Assistant Engine Operator for the Cimarron National Grassland.

Clayton started his federal career as a seasonal firefighter on the Rio Grande NF in 2000. He also taught math at Canon City High School after majoring in Secondary Education, with an emphasis in Mathematics. His wife, Cali, runs a wholesale nursery selling flowers and vegetables to local nurseries. They have two boys; Teal, 6, and Cole, 4. The family enjoys traveling in their camper trailer.

Clayton is proud of serving as a Military Crew Advisor last fall in the Pacific Northwest, where he helped train a 20-person crew of active Army personnel. He also knows Smokey Bear very well and is great at bringing that special furry fire educator to life.

- Ann Bond

## PAGOSA RANGER DISTRICT



### Two New on Headwaters Timber Team

**PAGOSA SPRINGS** - Dan Nauman is the new Headwaters Zone Timber Crew Supervisor overseeing sale preparation, reconnaissance and layout, tracer paint accountability, cruising and marking. Dan is a qualified cruiser and looks forward to learning more about the NEPA process and stewardship task orders.

Dan was a US Navy Personnel Specialist onboard the USS Chancellorsville with a home port in Yokosuka, Japan, from 2000 to 2008. He also served three years in Tennessee before being selected to serve in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2007. After separating from the Navy, he used the Post 9/11 GI Bill to attain a Bachelor's degree in Forestry Resource Management at Southern Illinois University - Carbondale.

Dan has worked seasonally for the past two summers on the Pagosa RD Timber Sale Preparation Crew. He worked a season on a Veteran Fire Corps crew out of Durango, performing fuels mitigation on the San Juan and Carson NFs. Dan is also an active member of the Pagosa area Veterans for Veterans organization.



**Josh Merrill-Exton is the new Sale Administrator/FS Representative** for the Headwaters Timber Zone. He'll be working on both the Columbine and Pagosa RDs, including the Pagosa Area Long Term Stewardship contract.

Josh comes to us from California, where he was Sale Administrator on the Stanislaus NF Mi-Wok RD. He started his federal career in 2008 on the Arapaho-Roosevelt NF Canyon Lakes RD as a Silviculture Technician. In 2010, he moved to the Stanislaus NF as Layout Forester, then worked as Rim Recovery Sale Prep Team Leader and Sale Administrator.

Josh holds a Bachelor's Degree in Forest Management from Colorado State University and graduated from the Sale Area Layout and Harvesting Institute. He and wife, Marie, have a daughter, Sage, 3, and another due in June. Their dogs, Anni and Lou, round out the family.

- Courtesy Pagosa RD

## DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE



### David is New Supervisory Forester

**DOLORES** - David Casey is the new Dolores RD Supervisory Forester. Most recently he was on the Santa Fe NF Cuba RD, where he was Supervisory Forester since 2013. David started his federal career in 2010 with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Eureka, California. He has an interest in Burned Area Emergency Response work and holds a Bachelor's degree in Forestry/Natural Resource Management from Southern Illinois University.

David and wife, Jessica, have a daughter Eva, 6, and son Ryder, 1-1/2. Sue, a coonhound, and Ruby, a bloodhound, round out the family. David enjoys cross-country and downhill skiing, hunting, and cutting firewood.

"I'm excited to be on a district with several mills that produce a multitude of forest products," he says. - Ann Bond



### Andy is New AFEO

**DOLORES** - Andy Bellairs is the new Assistant Fire Engine Operator (AFEO) assisting Matt Traynham with daily operations of the E-651 module. Previously Andy was an AFEO on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands in Dickinson, ND. He began his federal career as a seasonal firefighter at the Colombia River Gorge National Scenic Area in Hood River, Oregon. For his first permanent position, he moved to Watford City, North Dakota, as a senior firefighter.

Prior to his USFS career Andy owned and operated a Blimpie Subs and Salads restaurant in Lansing, Michigan. He also worked for Qwest communications in Denver. He enjoys skiing, biking, hunting, and fishing. He and wife, Desirae, have a black Labrador named Murdoc. "I lived in Colorado for 10 years and am excited to get back," Andy says. "Working on a grasslands has been an experience for me, but I have always loved the mountains." - Ann Bond



### Toni's Retiring

**DOLORES** - Toni Kelly, Dolores RD Visitor Information Assistant, retires in May after 31 years on the San Juan NF. She started on the former Mancos RD in 1985 as a seasonal Forestry Technician, then Recreation Technician on the Dolores RD. Toni also worked on the Mancos RD as Range Technician, Outfitter Guide Administrator and Lead Fire Suppression. In 1996, she was back in Dolores as Range Technician and Outfitter Guide Administrator. Since 2000, she has served as the Visitor Information Assistant at the Dolores Public Lands Center.

Early on, Toni worked seasonally as a BLM River Ranger and Holiday River Expeditions Guide in Utah, as a Range Technician on the Manti La Sal NF, and lifeguard and swim coach in California. She also worked on a Montana sheep ranch as Lambing Manager. Toni holds a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from Chico State University, where she studied post-graduate in Range/Fire Ecology. She also studied Animal Science at Kansas State University.

Retirement plans include hiking, mountain biking, travel, home improvement and spending time with husband, Tom, another San Juan retiree, their twins, 24, Sam and Sassy, and new dog, Chip. Toni is proud of setting up the visitor lobby/bookstore at the Dolores Office, and helping with the Aspen Guard Station Artist in Residence Program, 2005 Centennial celebration, Recreation Compartment Analysis, and various brochures and this newsletter. - Ann Bond