

RANGER ROUNDUP



By: Anne Casey, Glenwood District Ranger

Glenwood - June 2016

Photo Credit: David Thornburrgh Formatting/Design: Amber L. Brown Thompson



It's a time of intense gratitude here on the Glenwood Ranger District. We've had a month to remember.

The lower portion of the Catwalk reopened at the end of May, and a star party at the Cosmic Campground celebrated its designation as the first International Dark Sky Sanctuary in North America. We are proud to be able to connect the public, science, and the Gila National Forest for decades to come.

The Catwalk and Cosmic Campground have been heavily supported by partnerships with citizens local to the Gila (Friends of the Cosmic Campground and the Catwalk Citizens Group).



Catwalk

Both projects are works in progress; trailwork on the upper portion of the Catwalk trail and further development at the Cosmic Campground will take place in the coming years.

Because of the time, passion, and effort involved in making these opportunities possible, we want to take a moment to thank the people and groups involved:

Catwalk: We thank Justin Henwood and the Central Federal Lands Division of the Federal Highway Administration for both grant funding and support throughout the project. AUI, Inc. implemented the project beautifully, with oversight by Marshall Vickers and Anthony Johnson. NV5 provided geotechnical expertise, and Bohannon Huston, Inc. provided the excellent engineering

Cosmic Campground: Dr. Al Grauer and Ann Grauer planned, coordinated, and obtained funds and support to implement the project and attain designation. Bob Robinson and Bill and Val McCabe, initiators of the campground idea, and Pat Morrison, the former District Ranger who enabled the campground to come alive, also attended the celebration, adding depth and joy to the experience.



Cosmic Campground

Forest Service employees enabled these successes as well. Bob Shanks has moved these projects forward with heart and dedication. Harley Allsup lent his engineering savvy and energy to both projects, and Silas Davidson has been integral in coordinating both partnerships and progress. The district fire crew and trails crew have provided humanpower that was essential to preparing the Catwalk for the return of the public. The district frontliners have spent years patiently dealing with calls about the Catwalk closure, and they have transitioned smoothly to expressing our district joy at its reopening.

Supervisor's office employees, including Tracy Weber, Christa Osborn, Carolyn Koury, Jessica Ybarra, Ellen Snoeyenbos, Patsy Ramos, Teresa Smergut, and the road crew have helped on-site and in planning.

And finally, a thanks to the public - all of you who visit, and enjoy, and tell us what you think - for better or worse. You make us better land managers, and we thank you for it.