

March 7, 2017

Welcome to our new office!

In between the western-theme town of Winthrop and Tonasket, which serves as a hub for agricultural and forestry industries in north central Okanogan County, lies the city of Omak, home of the Omak Stampede horse race and now a cozy little Forest Service visitor information office.

The one-room Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest office is just a step away from the Omak Visitor Center, which receives about 4,000 visitors per year.

“Many of those visitors now come into our office for information,” said Visitor Services Information Specialist Mark Pepin. “Out of this building, between the Omak Visitor Center and our office, we are able to provide information about the whole area, from the Columbia River in the valley floor all the way to the Canadian border.”

As the number of employees declined at the formerly leased Forest Service facility in Okanogan, there was a need to relocate and the timing was great to move into the small office adjacent to the Visitor Center.

“It has been a good move. Having a presence in the central part of the county allows us to continue serving a larger clientele. Without the Omak location, people from the southern part of the county would have to drive to the Methow Valley or Tonasket to purchase permits or maps. Remaining centrally located makes it easier and more convenient,” Pepin said.

“This move has been awesome for me! The Visitor Center folks have been so gracious, they have made me feel really at home,” Pepin added.

The Forest Service Visitor Information office is open five days a week and provides the same products and permits that are available at local ranger stations. The office may be small but the service is great!



New Forest Service office located at the Omak Visitor Information Center in Omak, Washington. USFS photo.



Visitor Services Information Specialist Mark Pepin and Public Affairs Specialist Shannon O'Brien at the new Forest Service office at the Omak Visitor Center. USFS photo.



Visitor Services Information Specialist Mark Pepin inside the new Forest Service office at the Omak Visitor Center. USFS photo.