



# Dixie National Forest Newsletter Vol.1

# CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE



The Capitol Christmas tree made a stop in St. George in the parking lot of the Red Cliffs Mall on November 13th. This was the 14th of 25 scheduled stops before reaching its final destination at the Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

The United States Forest Service has donated a tree for the Capitol Building every year since 1970. Each year a new state is selected to be a donor. The Forests in that state offer several trees to choose from, and the final choice is made by the Architect of the Capitol. The only year Utah has ever donated a tree was 1996, and it came from the Manti La-Sal National Forest. The tree was escorted to the Capitol by our very own Bevan Killpack (recently retired District Ranger of the Pine Valley District).



# How many times have you seen the Forest Supervisor staff the front desk to help out our “Front Liners”?

That is exactly what happened this last year on November 29th, the day after Thanksgiving. Mindy Savage and Aly Farrow both have sons that play on the same basketball team. The team was scheduled to play an away game the day after Thanksgiving. Mindy and Aly were wondering if they could look for someone to cover for them so they could go watch the game. Angie Bullets heard their plight and volunteered to cover the desk so they could go. Angie staffed the desk from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, and sold approximately 80 Christmas tree permits in the process.

Mindy and Aly were very appreciative that Angie was willing to support them in spending time with their respective families. This act generated quite a bit of buzz, simply because this story is an example of kindness beyond what somebody would generally expect from a Forest Supervisor. It is nice to know we work in a place that puts a high value on families, and where even the people at the top of the hierarchy are willing to take time out of their busy schedules to help out a fellow public servant.

## Christmas Door Winners



The First Annual Dixie National Forest Christmas Door Contest was held during the month of December, 2013. There were many creative entries from which three prizewinners were selected.

First place went to the SO Public Services/Engineering Group, and the runner ups were Jodi Hamel from D1 and the D2 Rec/Special Uses Group.

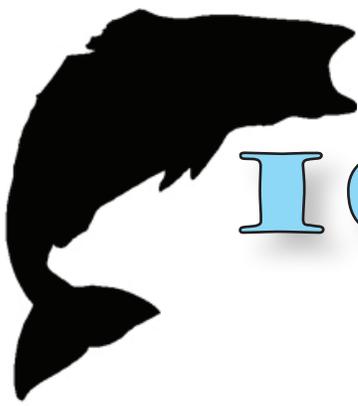


Pizza Hut gift cards were given to the winners. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all those who participated!

# Paiute Indian Tribe Hunt Luncheon

The Paiute Indian Tribe invited employees of the Dixie National Forest to attend an annual luncheon on November 25th to kick off a deer hunt administered by the tribe. The luncheon brought together employees from the Dixie NF, the Arizona Strip BLM, NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) Fredonia Field Office, hunting guides, and hunters to talk about conservation, outdoor recreation, and other land management topics. The luncheon provided a great opportunity for the Paiute Tribe to share how they manage their big game population, and provided a forum for representatives from different agencies to come together and talk about ways to collaborate in the future. The food was excellent, and so was the conversation.





# PANGUITCH LAKE ICE FISHING DERBY

The fourth annual Pangutich Lake Ice Fishing Derby was hosted by the Dixie National Forest on February 1st, 2014.

This annual charitable event is held to raise money for the Wildland Firefighter Foundation. In all, over \$3600.00 was raised for the foundation from entry fees and raffle ticket sales. It was a sunny and beautiful day, even if a bit chilly and windy. All fifty competition slots were filled and the event was also attended by some volunteers to help coordinate.

A special thanks to Bill Roach who provided and prepared the food, and Brian Burbridge for spear heading this annual tradition. Bill Roach also donated a 42" TV to be raffled off, and a Tablet to be awarded to the winner. The kids in attendance competed in a game called "Heads or Tails" and the winner was awarded an iPod. Other donors included Kim and Wendy Soper, Beaver Pawn, and other local businesses.



# In the Spotlight

## Joe Rechsteiner



**JOB TITLE:** The new District Ranger for the Pine Valley Ranger District.

**WHERE I WAS BORN AND GREW UP:** Born in San Bernardino, California. Moved to Utah in 1978 where I grew up in Logan, UT.

Joe graduated in 1989 from Logan High School. From there he served 6 years in the Navy (1990-1996) where he was stationed in Alameda and San Diego California. He was deployed to the Persian Gulf for 6 months and traveled through the Panama Canal on his way over there. After the Navy, Joe attended college at Utah State University and graduated with a B.S. in Forestry in 2000. He worked as a seasonal employee for 3 years before he landed a permanent position through the SCEP program in recreation on the Pleasant Grove RD, Uinta NF in 2001. In 2004, he accepted a promotion as a Recreation Manager on the Powell RD. In 2011, he detailed as the District Ranger on the Powell RD, and took another detail as a Ranger on the San Isabel NF. Joe has been married for 23 years and has an 11 year old daughter and a 9 year old son.

**HOBBIES:** I enjoy hiking, mountain biking, travelling and spending lots of time with my wife and kids.

**TIME IN THE FS:** I started full time permanent with the Forest Service in 2001 on the Pleasant Grove RD, Uinta NF.

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** Into the Wild and Ethics and Moral Philosophy.

**FAVORITE MOVIE OR TV SHOW:** Weather Channel, Travel Channel, and football.

**FAVORITE QUOTE:** It does not require many words to speak the truth. Chief Joseph.

**FAVORITE PLACE:** Pacific Beach.

**PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW...**

I was a welder and nuclear mechanic while serving in the Navy.





## IIC Award



On January 16th, the Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC) hosted by SUU was given the Partners in Conservation Award from the Secretary of the Department of Interior in Washington D.C. The IIC was founded in 2007 as an outgrowth of the newly established Outdoor Recreation Parks and Tourism degree offered at SUU. This program started as a collaboration between SUU and the recreation programs of land management agencies, and it quickly expanded due to interest from other functional areas within the land management agencies.

Partnership development funding from the Park Service was used to match with Forest Service dollars as seed money, helped get the program started at SUU. Seth Ohms, the SUU IIC Internship Coordinator calls the effort a “Win-win-win” because the land management agencies end up with easier access to an experienced applicant pool, SUU gets to provide a better educational experience for their students while also building strong relationships with land management agencies, and the students get a chance for paid on-the-job training and a better understanding of what type of work they will be doing after they graduate.

When the IIC program was first initiated, there was an Agency Coordinator funded by the Park Service and SUU that was housed at SUU. This position was a three year term. It has been vacant for the last year and a half. As a result, it is difficult for IIC staff at SUU to act as a voice for the land management agencies. Opportunities for new funding sources and expansion of the IIC program are sometimes being left on the table because of the lack of staff available to assist agency managers in chasing down these opportunities. When asked if there was anything more the Forest Service could do to support the IIC program, Seth was pretty adamant about the necessity to fill this position—preferably with an FTE rather than Term employee. A new Service First Agreement is under development that has the potential to again fund this critical Agency Coordinator position with the support of the Forest Service and the partnering Department of Interior agencies.

This collaborative partnership gives land management agencies access to funding sources that were often not available in the past. There are new hiring authorities in the works that, if approved, will make it even easier for all involved to benefit from this program. Interns who complete this program and transition to the Pathways program will begin the Pathways program with half of their service hours having been already completed through the internship. The success of this program has brought national spotlight to the southern Utah area.

The IIC program is overseen by a steering committee comprised of employees from SUU and a representative from each of the land management agencies in southern Utah. This committee meets once a month to ensure everyone’s needs are being met, and to ensure the program is running smoothly from the perspective of each of the partners. Other institutions such as Dixie State University have signed on to the program as academic partners, and SUU is currently receiving at least one or two phone calls a month from other academic institutions around the country who are interested in duplicating the IIC program at their institutions.

# Recent Retirements

The Dixie has seen quite a few changes in recent months. Many long time employees decided to hang 'em up and retire.

## Charlotte Mitchell

Charlotte was raised in a Forest Service family. Her father, Reed Thomson, was the District Ranger on the Escalante District of the Dixie National Forest for many years and then moved to Cedar City to work in the Supervisors Office. She grew up camping, fishing and spending time with her family.

After high school she worked at several different jobs but felt she needed to move toward a career and got a Mail and File Clerk position on the Dixie NF. From there she was promoted to Business Management Assistant and eventually to Support Services Specialist. She loved working for the Forest Service and made many great friends which she will miss. She is planning to stay here in Cedar City and spend time with her family. She loves being a grandma and loves the time she spends with her grandchildren. She plans to work as an AD during the fire season.

## Ken Zobell

Ken Zobell started working for the Forest Service as a seasonal dispatcher in the summer of 1982. He had been teaching 6th graders at South Elementary in Cedar City since 1979. In 1982 he filled in for a dispatcher who went on maternity leave. In 1984 he came back to the Forest Service, but this time he worked in the Engineering Shop. After spending his summers with the Engineers for four seasons, he went back to Dispatch eventually landing a permanent seasonal job in 2002. In 2006 he retired from teaching school and began working longer seasons in Dispatch. Eventually he took over duties as a Training Specialist managing all the records associated with Red Cards for all of the Dixie National Forest's Red Carded employees.

He retired January 10th, 2014 and is "adjusting to the schedule of having no schedule". He stays busy visiting his 14 grand kids in the Cedar City area. The thing he enjoyed the most about his career with the Forest Service was all the great people he was able to meet and work with throughout the years. Don't be too surprised if you see Ken out and about on fires in the future. He plans to sign up A.D. so he can still go out and rub shoulders with the fire community because he is "Retired, but not done!"

## Dave Swank

In 1949, Dave was born and his dad graduated in Forestry from Colorado A&M (now CSU). He was a District Ranger in Colorado and Forest Staff Officer in Texas. As a boy, Dave loved the Forest Service. Dave graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas in 1970. After graduation, Dave joined the Air Force and became a pilot, flying C-141 cargo jets from 1970-76. He flew cargo and troops across the Pacific into Vietnam. He also flew in Europe, East Asia, Australia and throughout the US. He enjoyed the challenges of being a pilot and flying worldwide. But, his heart was missing the outdoors.

Dave yearned to work outdoors and started applying for Forest Service jobs in early 1976. He landed a GS-4 Firefighter position on the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. It was a huge cut in pay, but came with the promise of a Forest Service career. Four months later he converted to a GS-5/7 TSI-Reforestation Forester. In 1978 he accepted a promotion to a 9/11 on the the Mark Twain NF in southern Missouri working as a Timber Program Manager, where he served for 8 years. Dave found himself longing to move west, so he took a lateral move to the Wasatch-Cache NF where he worked for 6 years as the Timber/Recreation Program Manager on the Kamas RD. His family was enjoying the small-town Forest Service life, with plenty of hiking, backpacking and camping in the mountains. They decided to take another lateral move to the Bridger-Teton NF where he served as the Timber/Recreation/Wilderness Program Manager in Pinedale, Wyoming. It was a spectacular place for the family with good schools and unlimited outdoor adventure. But, after 8½ years, it became clear they couldn't retire in such a cold climate. In 2001, they decided to move south to sunny Cedar City, where Dave finished his career as a NEPA Coordinator on the Dixie NF.

In January, 2014, feeling that the modern technology and science were over his head, he happily bailed out and retired. Dave and Leslie are very happy in Cedar and plan to stay put in sunny southern Utah. He spends three to four hours a day volunteering at the Happy Factory making toys for children in developing countries. He also spends about 2 hours a day in the gym.

When asked if he had any parting words, Dave said "I love the Forest Service—have since I was a kid. I have a great deal of respect for the people who do that valuable resource management work. The younger generation is brilliant concerning science and resource management and so talented. The Forest Service is in good hands."

**These employees have had long and illustrious careers, we are sad to see them go. But we thank them for their service and are happy to see them start a new adventure. Please join us in wishing them all the best in their retirements. For them every night is Friday night and every day is Saturday. Enjoy your retirement.**





## Landscape Conservation Forecasting

The Pine Valley Ranger District kicked off the new year with a collaborative workshop involving the Utah and Nevada chapters of The Nature Conservancy. The workshop was held to gather the information inputs required by the Landscape Conservation Forecasting mapping and computer modeling project. The Nature Conservancy will take the input offered by the Pine Valley Ranger District Staff and use it to generate a report that provides key findings for treatment actions aimed at restoring priority ecosystems on the District.



This was the fourth and final three-day workshop scheduled for the effort that was funded through local Forest Fuels dollars, Regional Office Fuels dollars, RAC money, and funding from The Nature Conservancy. The effort was funded via a Challenge Cost Share Agreement. The deliverables for this agreement are an updated and accurate District vegetation map, a prioritized list of the top 12 vegetation systems that need restoration as determined by the District Staff, and a final report that outlines the most cost effective combination of treatments needed to reduce current problems such as excessive annual grasses, conifer encroachment, and others. For most of the vegetation systems, the project report gives findings for areas where mechanized treatments may and may not be used, contrasting differences in costs and predicted restoration results between the two. All of the expected deliverables have been received except the final report, which is due later this year.

# The Workforce Planning Effort on the Dixie National Forest

The workforce planning effort is in full swing on the Forest, and the FLT is looking for your input. Considering changes to budgetary trends and agency goals from the last several years, it is apparent that a timely and objective look at the goals and objectives of the Dixie National Forest be compared and contrasted against the current workload and workforce. The intent of this process is to describe and define workforce needs into the future. Because the forest is committed to getting employee involvement at every stage, it will be designed to take individual input into consideration, creating a time line that may last as long as a year. This project is divided into four stages.



- 1. Analyze the workforce**
- 2. Assess unit programs**
- 3. Identify gaps**
- 4. Develop a plan**

We are entering into Stage 1 right now. In the coming weeks, employees will be asked to meet and determine the functions that each program does for the forest. After the list of functions is set, each employee will produce a worksheet of the average annual time that they work on each function. These will be collected by the BLI team leads, which will work to fill out some pre-packaged workforce planning spreadsheets outlining all the work that gets done on our forest. These spreadsheets will be used to analyze the workforce. Once the analysis has been completed we will move into Stage 2 of the process. This process is intended to be as transparent as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask your ranger or staff officer, and they will work to address the question. As information becomes available, it will be placed on a share point site. Updates will be made available to all who are interested.

Forest Service

# National Power-IT-Down Initiative

## A Collaborative Effort by Sustainable Operations and CIO!

National Power IT Down (PID) is a low-cost effort requiring employees to power down electronic devices and IT peripherals. PID is collaboratively implemented by Forest Service Sustainable Operations (SusOps) and the Chief Information Office (CIO). PID has the potential to save the agency \$2.5 million/year as well as significant CO2 emissions.

### Background & Context

PID has expanded from a limited pilot in Region 5 (R5) and the Washington Office (WO) to the focus of an Executive Potential Project (EPP) Team report proposing nation-wide implementation. The National PID Plan developed by the EPP Team provides an implementation guide and framework to assist the Forest Service SusOps Program and CIO in efforts to broaden and institutionalize the PID concept. Long term, PID implementation connects to the Forest Service Energy Cost & Consumption Reduction Plan goals, as well as energy reduction requirements under Executive Orders 13423 and 13514, plus the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA 2007).

The Agency is now in a position to leverage the lessons learned through piloting and developing the National PID Plan in order to develop policy and a program to support nationwide PID implementation. Our use of technology greatly influences our environmental footprint as an agency. It's a way that we can walk the talk of our conservation ethic.

### Cost & Resource-Savings, Realized and Projected

National PID has the potential to save the Forest Service a substantial amount that can be reinvested in other efforts to further the Agency's conservation emphasis and mission critical work. In Calendar Year 12, R5 saved \$3,560 and 21,660 kWh from its limited PID pilot, which was voluntarily implemented at the Regional Office and a subset of Forests and Districts.

Turning off one computer at night and on weekends can potentially save \$60 per computer/per year. That value, multiplied by the 43,000 computers used by the Forest Service, yields potential total savings of \$2.5M. Even with only 20% participation, the savings could reach \$516K annually. Power-IT-Down not only yields direct cost-savings but also promotes future cost avoidance as energy rates continue to rise.

### National PID Implementation

The EPP Team that developed the National PID Plan analyzed various options, methods, and alternatives to implement a national PID initiative that improved the efficiency and accuracy of reporting PID implementation, as well as mitigated known obstacles and risks. We recommend that the National PID Plan be implemented in the following phases, with Phases 1-2 focusing on weekend PID only and Phases 3-4 transitioning to a nightly PID:

**PHASE 1 (launch December 2013):** Regional Offices, Stations, and EISA Covered Facilities.

**PHASE 2 (launch Spring FY14):** Expand to High Performance Sustainable Buildings and Remaining Supervisor's Offices.

**PHASE 3 (launch FY14-FY15):** All Interested Units/Green Teams.\*

**PHASE 4 (launch FY15):** PID implemented across all Units.

**Weekend  
Only  
PID**

**Daily PID**

### LONG-TERM VISION

The USFS becomes one of the first Federal agencies to comprehensively implement Power-IT-Down. All employees at all Units are shutting down computers and unplugging peripherals every night.

\*Phase 3 is where we will switch from weekend to everyday PID.

# Coming Soon...



The best way to **store, search, sort** and **share** your photos

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## Do you have photos you would like to share?

We are looking for photos that would be great to share among each other, on the public website, as well as using them for promotional purposes for the Forest.

To make this a great tool, we need everyone! Please take some time to share the beauty of the Forest that we work so intimately in.

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## Dixie National Forest Photo Contest

Would you like your photo to grace the home page of the DNF website? All photo entries will be considered to replace the current banner located on the top of the home page. Photos should be submitted to Joe Harris by June 1, 2014.

For more information please contact Joe Harris @ [jrharris@fs.fed.us](mailto:jrharris@fs.fed.us)