



News Release

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Sierra National Forest to Participate in 126th Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA

Clovis, CA – To cap off the year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act, the U.S. Forest Service will participate in the 126th Rose Parade in Pasadena, California on January 1, 2015.

“The U.S. Forest Service entry will be a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the historic role of packers in supporting wild land firefighters and other back country operations and appreciation of the outstanding contributions made by national forest volunteers,” states Stanton Florea, Fire Communications Officer for the Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.

As the focus of the entry, Randy Moore, Regional Forester for the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region, will be joined in an authentic 19th century wagon by Thomas Tidwell, 17th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. Tidwell and Moore will be joined in the wagon by fire prevention icon Smokey Bear, known to generations as the symbol of wildfire prevention in America, and Mike Heard, a national wilderness volunteer award winner from California’s Los Padres National Forest. Additionally, the equestrian entry will include an entourage of Forest Service Rangers in period uniforms anchored by three all-mule pack strings. The pack strings will be expertly guided by California-based U.S. Forest Service packers Michael Morse, Lee Roeser and Ken Graves, who have an average of 37 years of experience each in the saddle.

The Sierra National Forest will be proudly represented in the parade by stock manager, Deborah McDougald, who will ride in the Color Guard carrying the State of California flag. To provide a sharp and uniform visual effect, Ms. McDougald states that, “Every Forest Service participant who is riding in the parade will be riding a mule, not a horse, and all the pack animals and riding mules are red in color.” Victor Parker, packer for the Sierra National Forest will support the team of packers. Micki Didier, wilderness ranger for the High Sierra Ranger District will assist in the parade as an “outwalker” in case anyone needs help or an animal acts up during the parade. The Sierra National Forest representatives will also participate in Equestfest activities on Monday, December 29th as part of the Rose Parade Celebration.

Note to media: More information about the U.S. Forest Service entry in the Rose Parade can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/news-events/?cid=STELPRD38254044

Employees and volunteers from nearly a dozen national forests across California are assisting with the U.S. Forest Service Rose Parade entry. Check locally for information on participants from communities in your area. In addition to the parade, the mule pack trains will be participating in the Equestfest at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center on December 29 as well as the post-parade viewing event. For more information on the parade, Equestfest and other activities that comprise the Tournament of Roses, visit: www.tournamentofroses.com/.

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