Ken Simeral, Lands and Minerals Team Leader

Caring for the Land and Serving People:

Forest Service lands are managed for multiple uses: water, range, timber, minerals, wildlife, and recreation. Other uses of forest lands are called "special uses," uses which benefit society as a whole. Ken leads the forest's team of geologists and realty specialists. The geologists monitor mining-related activities, and realty specialists administer permits for special uses such as roads, communications towers, power lines, pipelines, solar energy production, research projects, and apiaries (commercial bee hives). Ken's team also administers permits for the Highlands Center for Natural History and the Walnut Creek Center for Education and Research; identifies and closes abandoned or inactive mines that pose a risk to public safety; and takes care of issues such as land exchanges, land purchases and donations, easements, encroachment and trespass.

Background & Education:

Raised near St. Louis, in Cahokia, Illinois, Ken's paper route and job as a pin-setter in a bowling alley left him with a thirst for travel. He joined the U.S. Air Force and, in four years, got to live in Biloxi, MS, Taiwan, Okinawa, and Thailand. When he returned Ken studied at Feather River College, College of the Redwoods, and Humboldt State University, and earned a B.S. in Natural Resource Planning with a double minor in Soils and Botany.

Home and Family:

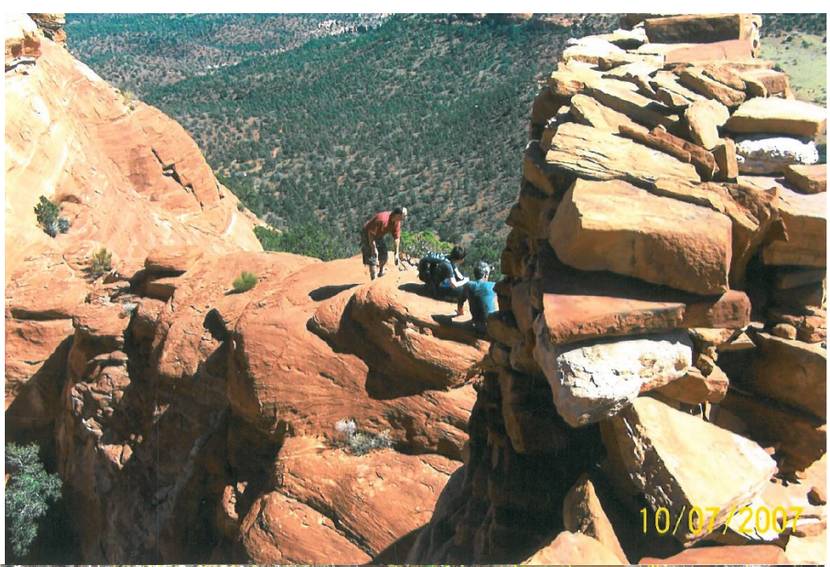
Ken is married and has 3 grown sons, Kevin, Brian, and Christopher. He lives in Prescott with his wife, Gay, and their 14-year-old Golden Retriever, Trisha.

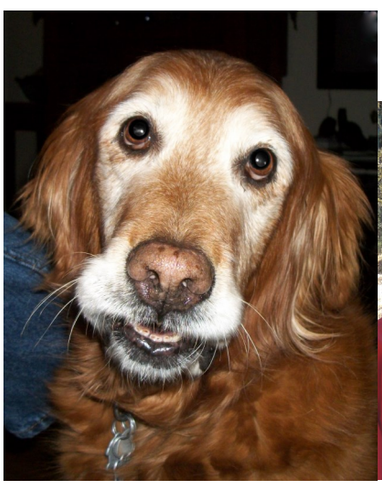
Experience in Natural Resource Management:

Ken has worked on the Prescott National Forest since 2003. He started out working trail crew seasonally on the Plumas National Forest, and Olympic, Isle Royale, and Redwood National Parks. Other positions he's held include: Soil Scientist on Six Rivers NF, for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, for California Soil/Vegetation Survey and for NRCS Soil Surveys in the Sacramento and Owens Valleys, CA; Realty Specialist and apprentice appraiser on Black Hills NF; and Pike San Isabel & Cherokee NF - Realty Specialist and appraiser on the Appalachian Trail Lands Acquisition Team.

Recreational Pursuits:

For fun, Ken enjoys hiking, relaxing on the front porch, playing with his dog, attending baseball games, vacationing on the beach, playing the guitar with friends, and compiling and organizing his music collection.



On working for the Forest Service:

"I believe in the Forest Service mission of caring for the land and serving people, and I have really enjoyed living in so many beautiful places, but my favorite part of working for the Forest Service is the people, both co-workers and members of the public."