



Credit Christa Osborn

# Gila Monster

Gila National Forest  
August 2015

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## Forest Supervisor's Message

Thanks for the warm welcome from all of you as I get settled on the Gila. I am excited and looking forward to the amazing opportunity of serving as Forest Supervisor. Joining the Gila National Forest has been a goal of mine since I began my management career. Growing up in southwest New Mexico, I have had the opportunity to spend a lot of time exploring the Gila and all it has to offer. As such, I consider the Gila to be a premier forest with great resources and challenges.



During my first few weeks on the forest I committed to sitting down with each office to gain an understanding of the work that is occurring on the forest. Employee perspectives on current and desired management are extremely important to me.

As employees continue to push hard during field season, I ask that we put safety at the forefront. A successful task should be gauged by the safe return of all employees each night. Please take the time needed to complete all tasks successfully.

I encourage every employee to stop by my office and say hi. *Adam Mendonca*

We have 2,006 likes on Facebook and



912 Followers on Twitter



## Wilderness Advisory Group



Annette Smits was recently chosen as the representative to the Chief's Wilderness Advisory (WAG) for the Southwestern Region 3. Smits will participate in conference calls, attend meetings and pass information she has learned from the WAG on to wilderness managers throughout Region 3.

Smits started working as a Wilderness Ranger in 1998 in Region 1; then became a wilderness ranger/trail foreman on the Coronado National Forest from 2001-2006 and continued on to the Tonto National Forest's wilderness program until 2010 where she helped manage the Salt and Verde River programs. She recognizes the need to maintain and promote primitive wilderness management skills and regularly collaborates with Forest partners. *Congratulations Annette!*

### Forest Plan Revision



Matt Schultz, Nessa Natharius, Rene Guaderrama, Mitchel White

Forest Plan Revision is a forest-wide effort and we want everyone to be informed and involved!

Matt Schultz (Forest Planner), Nessa Natharius (Soil Scientist/Watershed Specialist) Rene Guaderrama (Wildlife Biologist), and Mitchel White (Ecologist) form the core planning team to help facilitate the process. Numerous SO and District staff are part of the extended planning team, and everyone is invited to contribute.

Public engagement is ongoing with the second round of community meetings happening August 3-6<sup>th</sup>. Karen Yori of Blue Earth Consultants out of Santa Fe will be our facilitator for these meetings and we look forward to working with her. We also appreciate all the District employees who took time out of their busy schedules to help advertise the meetings. Since the first round of public meetings in March, we've attended over 20 organizational meetings and community events.

Thanks to all the people that attended the vegetation modeling prep workshop in July, which never would have happened without the extensive preparation conducted by Laura Vallejos. Thanks also to Brian Park for all the GIS assistance throughout.

Feel free to contact any of the core team members for more information.

### NMSU Archaeological Field School

New Mexico State University (NMSU) students participated in an archaeological field school on the Wilderness Ranger District of the Gila National Forest from May 21 through July 3, 2015. The 16 students, under the direction of NMSU Professor Dr. Fumi Arakawa, excavated the Twin Pines Village located south of Wall Lake.

Twin Pines Village is an important Classic Mimbres Phase Site (A.D. 1000-1130) that has not been professionally excavated until this summer. Information regarding the types of architecture, artifacts and trade highlight the importance of this site on the Gila National Forest.

The students spent five nights a week camping at the Beaverhead Workstation. For some students this was the first time they camped for an extended period of time and for some their first experience getting to know the Gila National Forest. The students learned the basics of archaeological excavation, mapping, photography, cleaning and classifying artifact types. In addition to the archaeological work, several well-known Mimbres archaeologists visited and toured this site for the first time.



NMSU student exposes newly discovered room walls

### Headlight Lens Discoloration/Haze

### SAFETY

Being able to see clearly in the dark is a critical part of our safety when we drive, especially in areas like ours where deer, elk and livestock are frequently on the road. Auto manufacturers now use plastic materials for a variety of applications in modern automobiles. By using plastic they are better able to reduce weight and increase vehicle mileage.



Before application

One of the disadvantages in using plastic for headlight applications is discoloration and hazing from weather and Ultra Violet (UV) light. This safety tip has been developed to remind all drivers of the potential effect the discoloration and hazing effect may have on visibility, especially at night.

Many name brand products are available at auto part stores that will aid in the removal of discoloration and haze. Most contain bottles of liquid and some type of materials for rubbing out the lens, some auto shops are also offering this service. In some older model vehicles it may prove impossible to get the lens cleaned. If this is the case, please contact your fleet specialist to have them replaced.



After application

## CRAG

The Action Counsel for Employees (ACE) has an updated charter and has changed its name to the Civil Rights Advisory Group (CRAG) in an effort to begin aligning itself more clearly with the Civil Rights directives and the pending Civil Rights Program redesign.

In the last several months, the CRAG has had several changes: Colten Moor finished his appointment as Chairperson, Juan Castañon, Persons with Disabilities Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM) retired, Larry Cosper stepped down as the FLT Champion and Tracy Weber is now in that position. Josh Johnson replaced Barbara Hulseby as the Quemado District representative and Yolanda De La O replaced Joe Aragon the Reserve District. The group has also welcomed Nate Nozie as the Native American SEPM, Jason Quimby as the Veterans SEPM, and Bernice McMahon as the SO representative. Bernice has also stepped up to act as the CRAG's Administrative Officer.

The group is slated to begin work on creating a Tactical Plan for the Gila. This is a Forest plan, more than it is a CRAG plan and will be designed to implement the R3 Civil Rights, Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan. The plan will define and prioritize our Civil Rights work and will require the input of leadership and employees.

Current vacancies on the CRAG include the Persons with Disabilities, Federal Women's, Asian Pacific Islander, African American and LGBT SEPMs, as well as a Chairperson. If you think you may be interested in helping the CRAG during this transition time or in committing to a

## CRAG cont'd

SEPM position, please reach out to your District Representative, Tracy Weber or Nessa (Jenny) Natharius.

## Penstemon

*Penstemon barbatus*

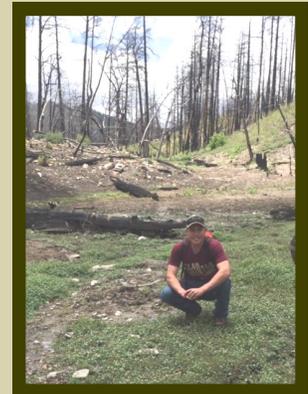


Credit Anne Casey

## West Point Cadet

The Forest recently hosted Tanner Ellison, a West Point Cadet studying environmental science, for a three-week internship to work in the field and gather data for his honor's thesis.

His research will measure plant diversity in the Silver Fire burn area and this research will be incorporated into the final BAER report for the fire. He will spend his senior year doing the analysis for his research.



Tanner Ellison in the Silver Fire burn area

Ellison commented, "This has been a win-win-win situation. Getting to work with all the resource specialists on the Gila has been great and their assistance will help guide and refine my thesis. It has informed me about the way my studies in hydrology, climatology, etc. are applicable in the field and how the different disciplines work together. Also, I've been at home, on the forest that I know, and have been out in the field a lot. What better way to spend part of your summer?"



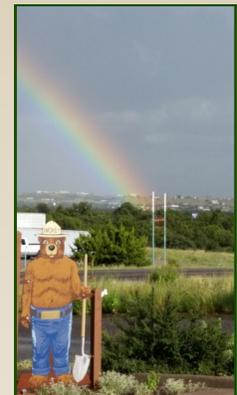
## Making Tracks

### New Faces, Promotions, Details

Juan Ortiz, Silver City Dispatch Center Manager, SO  
 Jason Quimby, Visitor Services Information Assistant, Wilderness RD  
 Yolanda De La O, Visitor Services Information Assistant, Reserve RD  
 Steven Seitzinger, Lead Forestry Technician, Glenwood RD  
 Leroy Apodaca, Visitor Services Information Assistant, Black Range RD  
 Tony Mireles, Administrative Officer, SO  
 Emily Jencso, Wildlife Biologist, Black Range RD  
 Nathaniel Dierking, Lead Forestry Technician, Quemado RD  
 Steven Carreon, Lead Forestry Technician, Quemado RD  
 Jessica Jelacic, GIS Specialist, SO  
 Stephen Roehle, Visitor Services Information Assistant, SO  
 Jason Byrd, Visitor Services Information Assistant, SO  
 Sarah Doehring, Forest Aviation Officer, SO  
 Amy Hartell, Natural Resource Specialist, South Zone  
 Elizabeth Toney, District Archeologist  
 Silas Davidson, Natural Resource Specialist (Recreation)  
 Adam Mendonca, Forest Supervisor from Rio Grande NF  
 Robert Shanks, promotion Forestry Technician (Recreation)  
 Sonia Torres, Contract Specialist, SO  
 David Warnack, Acting Forest Supervisor  
 Anne Casey, Acting Glenwood District Ranger  
 Susan Logan detail to Visitor Services Information Assistant at SO  
 Donald Gonzales detail to Engineering Equipment Operator from Gila SO  
 Allison Jackson, Acting Wilderness District Ranger  
 Carlos Garcia, detail to Visitor Service Information Assistant at SO  
 Dionisio Silva, detail to Forestry Technician (Prevention) on Silver City RD  
 Jennifer Ynostroza, Human Resources Assistant, SO

### Good-Bye & Good-Luck

Chance Traub, Forestry Technician transferred to BLM  
 Kelly Russell, Forest Supervisor, moved to National Forests of Florida  
 Debbie Cress, District Ranger moved to Tonto NF  
 Thomas Anderson, Information Receptionist, resigned  
 Barbara Hulse, Office Automation Clerk, retired  
 Richard Rodriguez, Supervisory Forestry Technician, retired  
 Ray Torres, District Ranger moved to Monongahela NF  
 Fabian Montano, Prescribed Fire/Fuels Specialist moved to Umpqua NF



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