

DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST

Annual Report 2009

QUESTIONS:

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Smokey Bear makes an appearance in Panguitch.

LOOKING BACK AT 2009—MACWHORTER'S MINUTE

2009 was a great year for the Dixie National Forest. We accomplished a lot of meaningful work on National Forest System lands. The *Annual Report 2009* is our way of sharing some of these achievements with our partners and key contacts. You will find information about our budget, partnerships, national/regional/forest strategic management goals, work done at the ranger districts, work done in program areas, and our emphases for 2010.

A few noteworthy points I would like to share with you:

- After many years of planning, we completed our forest-wide motorized travel plan. My decision was appealed and we were able to resolve 43 of the 45 issues raised by appellants. We were upheld on the final two issues by our regional office. We are now implementing this decision.
- Through the regional Legacy Roads and Trails Program we completed over one million dollars in critical roads, trails, and riparian projects.

In addition to this great work (and more that we will detail further in the *Annual Report 2009*), we further strengthened our relationships with local, state and other Federal government agencies, user groups, interest groups, and the many visitors to the Dixie National Forest. We hope that 2010 will be more of the same.

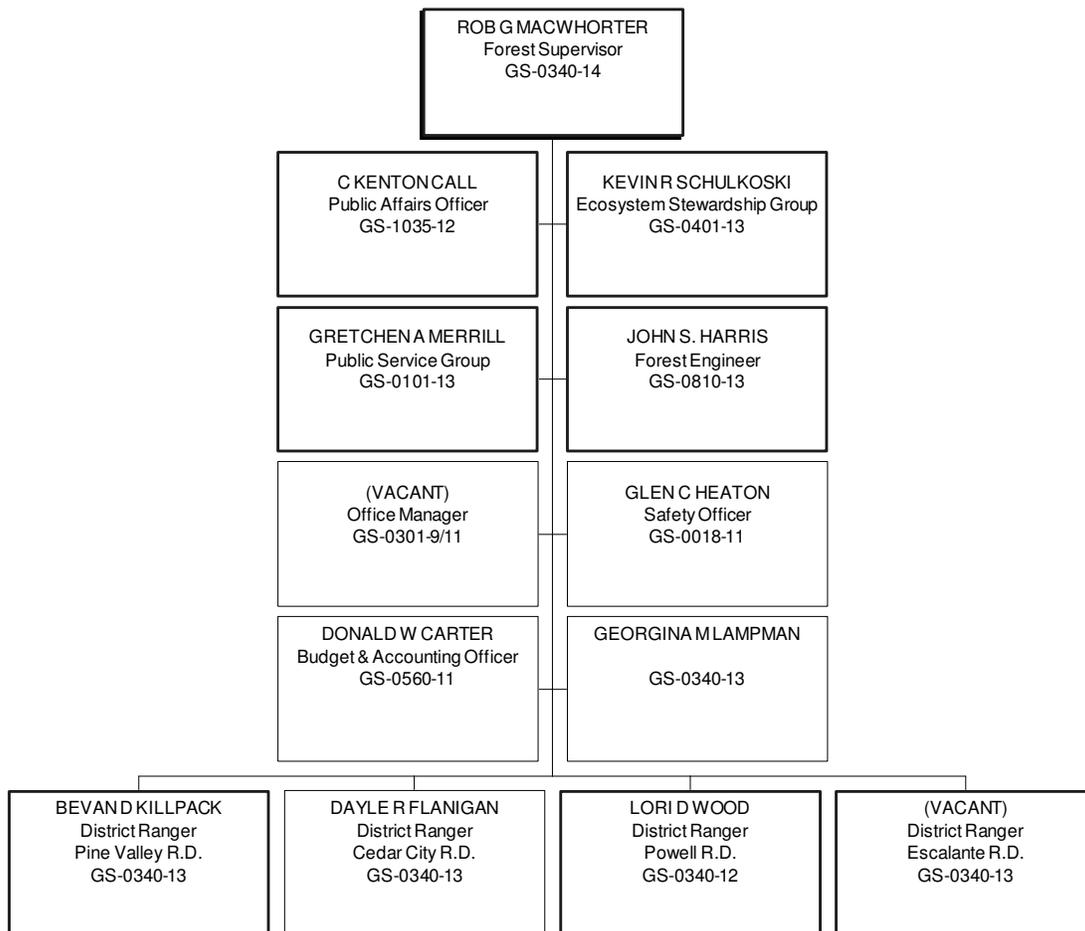
Sincerely, *Rob MacWhorter*



DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST—AT A GLANCE

The Dixie National Forest is located in southern Utah. The forest is comprised of four ranger districts (west to east): Pine Valley, Cedar City, Powell, and Escalante. The forest stretches from the fringes of the Mojave Desert and Great Basin to the high mountain plateaus of the Colorado Plateau. The headwaters of the Escalante and Virgin River systems are found on the forest. National Forest System lands border on internationally known National Park Service lands. Much of the world-class scenery that visitors flock to southern Utah for exists on National Forest System lands. The forest is a land of many uses and visitors come from all over the world to hike, bike, ride ATVs, fish, hunt, ski, camp, and view incredible scenery. Among other things, timber, range, drinking water, and recreational opportunities are provided by these forest lands.

DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST LEADERSHIP TEAM





DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST—OFFICE CONTACTS

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

CEDAR CITY RANGER DISTRICT

Rob MacWhorter, Forest Supervisor
Dayle Flanigan, District Ranger
1789 North Wedgewood
Cedar City, UT 84721-7769
Phone (435) 865-3700

POWELL RANGER DISTRICT

Lori Wood, District Ranger
225 East Center Street
P. O. Box 80
Panguitch, UT 84759
Phone (435) 676-9300

PINE VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT

Bevan Killpack, District Ranger
196 E. Tabernacle, Suite 38
St. George, UT 84770
Phone (435) 652-3100

ESCALANTE RANGER DISTRICT

Vacant, District Ranger
755 West Main
P.O. Box 246
Escalante, UT 84726
Phone (435) 826-5400



The Dixie NF is located in the southwest part of the State of Utah.

Dixie National Forest Website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/>

DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST—VISITOR CENTERS

ST. GEORGE INTERAGENCY VISITOR CENTER

345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, UT 84790
(435) 688-3246

PINE VALLEY HERITAGE CENTER

(435) 574-2463

DUCK CREEK VISITOR CENTER

(435) 682-2432

RED CANYON VISITOR CENTER

Highway 12
(435) 676-2676

ESCALANTE VISITOR CENTER

755 West Main
Escalante, UT 84726-0246



U.S. FOREST SERVICE—MISSION AND VALUES

FOREST SERVICE MISSION

Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

FOREST SERVICE VALUES

The Forest Service—

- Cares for the Nation's forest and grassland ecosystems.
- Values the varied skills and contributions of a diverse workforce.
- Strives for accountability by every employee for the efficient management of the capital resources he or she uses.
- Is responsive to national and local interests.
- Is focused on the needs of future generations.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE—STRATEGIC DIRECTION

In July 2007, the Forest Service released the *USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan FY 2007-2012*. This plan outlines agency strategies to meet the Forest Service Mission and honor Forest Service Values. This plan is available online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/>.

The plan outlines seven strategic goals with corresponding objectives. The goals are:

1. Restore, Sustain, and Enhance the Nation's Forests and Grasslands
2. Provide and Sustain Benefits to the American People
3. Conserve Open Space
4. Sustain and Enhance Outdoor Recreation Opportunities
5. Maintain Basic Management Capabilities of the Forest Service
6. Engage Urban America With Forest Service Programs
7. Provide Science-Based Applications and Tools for Sustainable Natural Resources Management



INTERMOUNTAIN REGION—LEGACY AND FOCUS

The Intermountain Regional (R4) Leadership Team (which provides leadership for Forests in Utah, Nevada, and parts of Idaho and Wyoming) has established one legacy area (a priority that will be long-term and multi-generational) and four focus areas (short to mid-term in duration). These legacy and focus areas will receive a disproportionate amount of the region's time and money.

The Intermountain Region's Legacy Priority is Water Stewardship. Our work in Water Stewardship will contribute to significant conservation work and be felt by generations to come. This is the work that our Regional Forester Harv Forsgren has suggested, "We want to be remembered for. Few forces are more important than water in shaping the human condition."

In addition to Legacy Priority, there are four Regional Focus Areas: Workforce Pipeline, Travel Management, Range Management, and Vegetation Classification and Mapping.

DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST—EMPHASIS AREAS

Work on the Dixie National Forest is oriented to help achieve goals in the *USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan FY2007-2012* and towards the Intermountain Region Legacy and Focus Areas. Each year the Forest Leadership Team identifies Priority Emphasis Areas to direct the work of forest employees. In 2009, eight Priority Emphasis Areas were identified.

- Motorized Travel Plan (Produce MVUM; begin implementation)
- Recreational Facilities
- Lands/Special Uses/Minerals
- Safety and Wellness
- Service First—Coordinate Finding & Utilizing Facilities with Other Agencies
- Forest Program Integration
- Environmental Footprint
- Cost Savings and Efficiency



2009 BUDGET

In the recent past, the Dixie National Forest has received an annual budget of approximately \$14-16 million. In 2009, the forest budget was around \$25 million. The large increase is due to additional funds received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the forest strongly competing for other funding such as the Legacy Roads and Trails funding.

Funding comes to the forest in Budget Line Items (BLI). The forest is accountable for accomplishing targets in these specific areas. The largest BLIs (all in excess of \$1 million) for the Dixie National Forest direct funding to: fire preparedness, hazardous fuels, recreation, road maintenance and construction, timber, and watershed. The forest also receives substantial funding for administering range, minerals, and wildlife programs.

In addition to these appropriated funds, over \$10 million was spent in emergency fire suppression and post fire rehabilitation on the Dixie National Forest.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships and collaboration for conservation continue to be a guiding principle for the Dixie National Forest. In 2009, the Dixie cooperated with many partners on important work. Through partnership, forest employees leveraged over \$1 million in additional work. Much of the work contributed by forest partners doesn't always show up in dollars leveraged; countless hours were donated by volunteers on forest projects as well.



Above: American Conservation Experience (ACE) doing trail work on forest..



Above: Information sharing at the Red Canyon Visitors Center



Above: Underburn in aspen



PINE VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT

The Pine Valley Ranger District (RD) is located in the southwestern corner of the Dixie National Forest. The administrative offices of the RD are located in St. George, but the RD maintains a presence in Pine Valley and Enterprise. The Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness is the largest congressionally designated wilderness area on the Dixie National Forest.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

- Completed Phase I of the three phase Pine Valley Recreation Area Reconstruction (a new campground and day-use area will be available in summer 2010).
- Reseeded and mulched 9,000 acres of burned area after the Mill Flat Fire. Native seed used in wilderness. Trails and roads rebuilt.
- Completed Upper Santa Clara vegetation project in pine belt above Pine Valley.
- New Cottonwood Wilderness was established by Congress.
- Used “Good Neighbor” authority to do trail work on South Boundary and Syler Springs Trails.
- Enterprise Work Center conveyed to highest bidder—funds generated stay on forest.
- Completed Bumble Bee Shaded Fuel Break—maintained 1,600 acres of former chained areas.
- Completed NEPA for Enterprise Reservoir and Leeds Creek Dispersed Camping.
- Over \$40,000 in donations to add patio and ramp to Pine Valley Heritage Center.



Post Mill Flat Fire seeding and mulch.

Pine Valley RD Numbers

- 11 Full-Time Employees
- 5 Part-Time Employees
- 15 Seasonal Employees
- Numerous volunteer contributions



Packing in materials for work on the RD. Page 9



CEDAR CITY RANGER DISTRICT

The Cedar City Ranger District (RD) manages much of the high country above Cedar City. The congressionally-designated Ashdown Gorge Wilderness Area is located on the RD. Many visitors come to the RD to visit the areas of Navajo Lake, Duck Creek, and Panguitch Lake.



Cedar Breaks Trailblazers ATV Club helps clean up the Forest.



Cedar City RD did a lot of motorized travel plan implementation. Here is a typical Trailhead.

Cedar City RD Numbers

- 40 Full-Time Employees
- 51 Seasonal Employees
- 128 volunteer hours for cross-country ski area
- 206 volunteer hours at Mammoth Creek
- 182 volunteer hours from Cedar Breaks Trailblazers
- 1096 volunteers from A.J. and the Sky Ridge Riders

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2009

- Ranger District prepared and offered for sale approximately 20,000 ccf of timber. This is on par with the 10 year average for the ranger district.
- Conducted major scenery enhancement—removal of dead spruce along Highway 14.
- Through cooperation with Kane County, reconstructed the No. 1 Makagunt ATV Trail adjacent to Duck Creek Village.
- Reconstructed Snowmobile Trail at Brian Head.
- Rerouted Marathon Trail off private land onto National Forest System lands.
- Cooperated with Iron County on reconstruction of Red Creek Road.
- Acquired funding and awarded contract for reconstruction of Cascade Falls Trail.
- Participated with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in repair of Navajo Lake Dam.
- Reduced hazardous fuels on 700 acres around communities at risk.
- At Haycock Creek and Edwards Springs reduced fuels and improved wildlife habitat on 2,800 acres.
- Implemented phase 5 (Stout Canyon and Harris Flat) of Duck Swains Travel Plan.



POWELL RANGER DISTRICT

The Powell Ranger District (RD) is located in Garfield and Kane counties. The Paunsaugunt Plateau and Mount Dutton comprise the major landmarks on this RD. Thousands of visitors enjoy the Red Canyon Visitor Center and surrounding trails each year.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

- Completed re-route of Grandview Trail and constructed nine additional miles of trail.
- Constructed and paved 3.1 additional miles of the Red Canyon Bike Trail. Trail now extends to East Fork Road.
- In partnership with Scenic Byway, installed six new interpretive signs and three new panel kiosks at first pull out on Highway 12.
- Installed six guzzlers on RD including two through helicopter placement.
- Surveyed over 58,000 acres (134 colonies) for the Utah Prairie Dog. Seventeen new colonies were discovered.
- Through mechanical treatment and burning, conducted 4,500 acres of fuels reduction (includes Bridge Wildland Fire that was jointly managed for resource benefit) with the National Park Service.
- Sold 3,165 ccf of timber. Offered an additional 4,821 ccf.
- Planted 92 acres of seedlings and thinned 587 acres.



Helicopter helps install guzzler on RD.



Utah Highway Patrol event at Red Canyon V.C.

Powell RD Numbers

- 16 Full-Time Employees
- 30 Seasonal Employees
- 1 Experience International Employee
- 3,920 volunteer hours in recreation
- 600 volunteer hours through dedicated hunter program



ESCALANTE RANGER DISTRICT

The Escalante Ranger District (RD) is located on the far east side of the Dixie National Forest. The congressionally-designated Box-Death Hollow Wilderness is located on this RD. Much the headwaters for the Escalante River System is found on this RD. The communities of Boulder and Escalante have strong connection to this part of the forest.



Boulder Creek Culvert removal (left) and installation (right). This is a Legacy Roads and Trails Project.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

- Completed implementing the forest Motorized Travel Plan decision in the Griffin Springs Implementation Area (IA). This is the first completed IA on the forest.
- Through Legacy Roads and Trails Program, completed Boulder Creek Culvert Removal and Bridge Installation.
- Conducted renovation of Posey Lake Campground.
- Removed pinyon and juniper that were encroaching at Rock Bench.
- Installed fence for Antimony Creek enclosure.

Escalante RD Numbers

- 19 Full-Time Employees
- 21 Seasonal Employees
- 5 Youth Conservation Corps Members (1,471 hours)
- 115 Volunteers (230 hours)
- 14 Utah Conservation Corps Participants (960 hours)



ENGINEERING PROGRAM



New group day use site in Pine Valley Recreation Area.

Engineering Numbers

- 11 Full-Time Employees
- 16 Seasonal and Part-Time Employees

PROGRAM KEY CONTACT

John Harris, Forest Engineer
(435) 865-3751

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

- Completed Phase I of Pine Valley Recreation Area Reconstruction. Constructed 25 new campsites and a new day-use group area with a 300+ person capacity.
- Designed and constructed additions to Red Canyon Bike Trail.
- Completed East Fork Boulder Creek project by constructing new concrete box culvert with stream enhancement to improve aquatic passage.
- North Creek Road road reinforcement and stabilization project to improve road safety and implement sediment control.
- Reconstructed five campsites at Posey Lake Campground including renovation of two CCC-era outhouses (now up to current Forest Service standards).
- Installed new solar powered water boost pump and battery system for Deer Haven Campground pressurized water system.
- Replaced old recreation boat docks at Barker Reservoir with new aluminum accessible docks.
- Put down chip seal on asphalt in campgrounds at Navajo Lake.
- Stripped existing lead paint and repainted Panguitch Warehouse.
- Replaced well pump and generator at Honeycomb Rocks Campground to automatically supply water for gravity system.
- Replaced two non-accessible restrooms at Cedar Canyon Campground with new accessible facilities.
- Remodeled existing restrooms at Duck Creek Visitor Center for accessibility.



FIRE AND FUELS PROGRAM



Air tanker dropping retardant out ahead of Mill Flat Fire.

Fire Program Numbers

- 12 Full-Time Employees
- 20 Permanent Seasonal Employees
- 51 Seasonal Employees
- 17 AD/Casual Employees
- 30 Non-Fire Employees who assisted in wildfire and RX fire program
- Participate in Color Country Interagency Fire Organization with numerous partners



Firefighters working on the edge of the fire line.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

- 100 percent success on initial attack on all unwanted wildland fires.
- 24,764 (14,428 WUI/9,970 non-WUI) acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels on the forest. Exceeded goal by 23 percent.
- Managed a multi-jurisdiction resource benefit fire (Bridge Fire on Powell RD and Bryce Canyon National Park).
- Completed projects with partners from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wild Turkey Federation, and other groups.
- Very safe fire season— no major accidents on all fire or prescribed fire activities. Only one serious injury (a broken leg).
- Duck Creek Fuels Reduction project funded through ARRA. Project includes \$2.4 million in contracted thinning, piling, and burning; \$120,000 in “Good Neighbor” pile burning; and \$400,000 in contract agreements for archeology and wildlife survey work to prepare for future critical hazardous fuels work across the forest.

PROGRAM KEY CONTACT

Kevin Greenhalgh
 Forest Fire Management Officer
 (435) 865-3771



HERITAGE PROGRAM

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

- Awarded ARRA funding for restoration of the historic Pine Valley Guard Station.
- Celebrated 15th year of partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and Washington County School District to provide Color Country Natural Resource Camp (educates hundreds of youth each year).
- Renewed Memorandum of Understanding with the Paiute Tribe of Utah.
- Conducted 20 outdoor education projects.
- Assisted the Fishlake National Forest with the Gooseberry Outdoor Education Camp for third graders. The Gooseberry Camp celebrated its thirtieth anniversary.
- Completed roads survey for motorized travel planning on the Pine Valley Ranger District.
- Conducted and completed 19 compliance projects on the forest.

Heritage Program Numbers

- One Full-Time Program Manager
- Two Seasonal Student Interns from Southern Utah University
- One HACU Student Intern from Puerto Rico
- 544 total volunteer hours



Youth group works at historic Pine Valley Guard Station.



Color Country Natural Resources Camp group survey site.



Local Boy Scouts work on merit badge.

PROGRAM KEY CONTACT

Marian Jacklin, Forest Archeologist
(435) 865-3746



LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The Law Enforcement and Investigations organization is an integral part of the overall management of the National Forest System. Law Enforcement personnel operate as full partners within the Forest Service organization in carrying out the agency's mission, especially in upholding federal laws and regulations that protect natural resources, agency employees, and the public.

Uniformed Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) enforce Federal law and regulations governing National Forest Lands and resources. As part of that mission LEO's carry firearms, defensive equipment, make arrests, execute search warrants, complete reports, and testify in court. They establish a regular and recurring presence on a vast amount of public lands, roads, and recreation sites. The primary focus of their jobs is the protection of natural resources, protection of Forest Service employees, and the protection of visitors.

Special Agents are criminal investigators who plan and conduct investigations concerning possible violations of criminal and administrative provisions of the Forest Service and other statutes under the United States Code. Special agents are normally plain clothes officers who carry concealed firearms, and other defensive equipment, make arrests, carry out complex criminal investigations, present cases for prosecution to U.S. Attorneys, and prepare investigative reports.

Law Enforcement and Investigations staffing on the Dixie NF consists of one South Zone Special Agent stationed in St. George, who also has investigative responsibilities on the Fishlake and Manti-LaSal NF's. During 2009 there was one LEO assigned to the Dixie, stationed in Cedar City, who patrolled all Districts of the forest. A second LEO has recently been hired who will be responsible for the Powell, Escalante, and Teasdale RDs.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

- Since 2005, 1,036 OHV incidents documented through violation notices and incident reports (majority involved resource damage).
- Primary focus of investigations program in 2009 was the manufacture and distribution of marijuana.
- Ten marijuana grows were investigated on National Forest System Lands in partnership with other law enforcement agencies. 71,539 plants were eradicated, 11 arrests made, and eight firearms seized.
- Clean up at cultivation sites is major undertaking. Officers must dispose of miles of irrigation pipe, tons of human garbage, and dangerous chemicals (such as fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, and propane).



Firearms seized during marijuana bust in 2009. If you see suspicious behavior on the forest, leave the area immediately and report it to local law enforcement.

KEY CONTACT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Reporting violations: (435) 865-3700
Seven Day Dispatch (Summer): (435) 865-4600
In case of Emergency, contact local Sheriff's Department.



MINERALS PROGRAM

MINERALS PROGRAM KEY CONTACT

Sue Baughman, Program Manager (435) 865-3703

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2009

- Made significant progress on forest-wide Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis. Currently cooperating with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Utah Department of Air Quality, and the National Park Service regional air quality specialists to address new standards on engine emissions and global climate change in the analysis. Hope to have a Final EIS and Decision in late spring 2010.
- In cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service, the forest just published a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS for the proposed Garkane Transmission Line from Tropic to Hatch. The Draft EIS will be available for 90 days of comment from December 11, 2009. This project could have a Final EIS and Decision by summer 2010. The forest has begun early consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to incorporate appropriate mitigations for Utah prairie dog and sage grouse.
- Cooperated with the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining to close three abandoned coal mines on the Escalante Ranger District and another small mine on the Pine Valley Ranger District.

SPECIAL USES PROGRAM

SPECIAL USES PROGRAM KEY CONTACT

Kathy Slack, Program Manager (435) 865-3742

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2009

- Reissued all Recreation Residence Authorizations for a 20-year period.
- Consolidated all campground concessions operations under one authorization enabling the forest to use Granger-Thye Offset money for larger projects across the forest.
- Accepted lead forest responsibilities for three major electricity transmission projects: Sigurd to Red Butte No.2, Energy Gateway South, and Transwest Express.



RANGE PROGRAM



Gearing up for a cooperative weed management project in 2009.



Headwaters of Antimony Creek in early spring for high country (June).

Range Program Numbers

- Six Full-Time Employees, 5 Seasonal Employees, 100 volunteer hours

PROGRAM KEY CONTACT

Chad Horman,
Range Program Manager
(435) 865-3731

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

- Administered grazing permit program. Currently 1,419,861 acres of the forest are permitted for livestock grazing. Permitted animal unit months (AUMs) are 10,728 sheep and 74,931 cattle. In 2009, authorized AUMs were 10,315 sheep and 73,204 cattle. This generated about \$105,000 in grazing fees (of which 25% or about \$26,250 goes back to the counties in lieu of taxes and 25% comes to the forest for range betterment).
- Over 170 utilization/compliance monitoring inspections were conducted. 576,000 acres were administered to the Forest Service standard.
- 13 grazing permits were issues/reissued and eight Allotment Management Plans were prepared during the year.
- Nine ponds distributed throughout 23,365 acres of the North Hills Wild Horse and Burro territory were cleaned.
- Nearly 20,000 acres of rangeland was improved through installing wildlife escape ramps in troughs, pond cleaning, removal of encroaching juniper, replacement of old troughs, installation of ten miles of fence destroyed by wildfire, and installing and cleaning cattleguards.
- Over 3,200 acres were treated for noxious weeds primarily scotch thistle, musk thistle, and whitetop.
- Five days were spent by Forest Service personnel supporting Coordinated Weed Management Areas (CWMA).



RECREATION PROGRAM

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

- Maintained over 300 miles of trails.
- Constructed or reconstructed over seven miles of trail including:
 - the non-motorized Duck Creek Visitor Center Interpretive Trail away from the Duck Creek ATV Trail to enhance the non-motorized visitor experience.
 - the Grandview Trail (reroute) off roads and trails to enhance the non-motorized recreation experience (project is a partnership between Dixie National Forest and Utah State Parks and Recreation).
 - the Leap Creek Trail (Syler Springs) where trail was damaged by post fire erosion and blow down. Crews reconstructed trail tread and removed over 150 trees with crosscut saws.
- Constructed three new kiosks and numerous restrictive barriers.
- Hosted Utah Conservation Corps crew. Crew worked for 26 weeks on the forest. These four person crews worked on three of the four ranger districts.
- Youth Conservation Corps worked for 14 weeks on the forest. These crews also worked on three of the four ranger districts.
- The American Conservation Experience worked for eight weeks on the forest. These 11 person crews worked on two of the four ranger districts.

Recreation Program Numbers

10 Full-time Employees, 22 Seasonal Employees, Over 3,000 volunteer hours



Before



After

Before and after hardening of Duck Creek ATV Trail.

PROGRAM KEY CONTACT

Gretchen Merrill,
Staff Officer

(435) 865-3741



SOILS AND WATERSHED PROGRAM

PROGRAM KEY CONTACT, Rich Jaros, Program Manager, (435) 865-3722



Example of a road closure in Duck Swains area. The soils and watershed program uses Motorized Travel Plan implementation to accomplish many of its natural resource objectives.



With responsibility for Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER), the soils and watershed program provided leadership after the Mill Flat Fire.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

- Assisted in Duck Swains Access Management (closing roads)
- Assisted in Griffin Top Access Management (closing roads)
- Coordinated Leeds Creek Designated Dispersed NEPA decision
- Coordinated Enterprise Reservoir Designated Dispersed NEPA decision
- Coordinated Mill Flat Burned Area Emergency Treatments (aerial mulching and seeding)

Soils and Watershed Numbers

- 3 Full-time Hydrologists
- 1 Full-time Program Manager
- 1 Full-time Hydrology Technician
- 4 Seasonal Employees



TIMBER PROGRAM



Many visitors to the forest noticed the great scenery enhancement projects conducted by the Cedar City Ranger District in 2009. Some timber was even logged using helicopter logging.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

WEST SIDE OF FOREST

- Sold Duck Creek Decks, Upper Mammoth Stewardship, Strawberry Decks, Paradise Lost Aspen, and Hoodle Creek for total of 7,343 ccf. Offered Mount Dutton for 4,821 ccf.
- Completed layout, marking, and cruising for four future projects.
- Completed 1,214 acres of non-commercial thinning.
- Completed 288 acres of Englemann spruce and ponderosa pine planting.
- Administered helicopter logging portion of Midway Timber Sale.

PROGRAM KEY CONTACT

Jim Gerleman, Timber Program Manager
(435) 865-3705

EAST SIDE OF FOREST

- Sold Toad Salvage for 1,614 ccf. Offered Clayton Salvage for 5,113 ccf.
- Completed layout, marking, and cruising of two future projects.
- Administered Barney Top Stewardship. Completed 84 acres of pre-commercial thinning, and 50 acres of site prep for burning for natural regeneration.
- Record of Decision signed on Pockets Timber Sale. Decision Notice signed on Corn Creek Salvage.

Timber Program Numbers

- 11 Full-Time employees
- 5 Part-Time employees
- 10 Seasonal employees
- 1 Student trainee



WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Wildlife Program Numbers

- Seven Full-Time Biologists
- 12 Seasonal Biology Technicians
- Thousands of hour of volunteer work from “Dedicated Hunter Program”.
- Significant funding and volunteer hours from a variety of partners including: Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, and Utah Partners for Conservation and Development



MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

- Monitored 146 of 155 Northern goshawk territories on the forest. Dixie National Forest has the highest density of Northern goshawk in Utah.
- Monitored for flammulated and Mexican spotted owls, Northern flicker, bald eagles, peregrine falcon, Utah prairie dogs, mule deer and elk, and wild turkey.
- Enhanced approximately 18,000 acres of wildlife habitat through mechanical treatment of encroaching pinyon and juniper and the use of fire to reduce decadent rangelands and rejuvenate aspen stands.
- Created new wetland and 2 acre pond for wildlife use.
- Enhanced Utah prairie dog habitat through dusting colonies to prevent spread of bubonic plague. Cooperated with Bryce Canyon National Park in this effort.
- In cooperation with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources completed 18 miles of stream habitat work. Accomplished through chemical renovation for Bonneville and Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- Dam work at Enterprise Reservoir and Calf Springs resulted in improvements to 378 lake acres. Non-game fish species benefited.
- Improved two acres of lake and almost of a mile of stream through Dead Lake Road Decommissioning.

PROGRAM KEY CONTACT
 Ron Rodriguez, Wildlife Program Manager
 (435) 865-3732



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2010—MACWHORTER'S OTHER MINUTE

I am very proud of the work that employees of the Dixie National Forest accomplished in 2009. Our success is a function of dedication, expertise, and commitment of some great people. The contributions of our fantastic partners cannot be understated. We will seek to build on and improve these partnerships and hope to produce even better results in 2010.

2009 was an exceptional budget year for the Dixie National Forest. In 2010 we may not see the same funding, but we are excited to continue with many of our 2009 emphasis areas. In particular, we will be aggressively engaged in Motorized Travel Plan Implementation and managing our large fuels, roads, recreation, timber and watershed programs. Finally, I expect that we will make some major decisions related to energy in 2010.

I would welcome your feedback on our successes in 2009 and how we can improve in the future. My door is always open!

Sincerely, *Rob MacWhorter*

