



San Juan Public Lands People

News for San Juan Public Lands employees, retirees & partners

Spring 2010



San Juan National Forest
San Juan BLM Field Office

Durango Federal Employees Help Navajo Nation

DURANGO - The Durango Federal Employee Association spearheaded a community effort this winter to donate snowshoes and cross-country skis to Navajo Nation tribal members coping with record snows.

San Juan Forestry Technician Laura Stransky was contacted via email by tribal member Nelson Roanhorse, who had worked on the San Juan's old Animas RD in the 1970s. Nelson told her that the deep snow had made it almost impossible for Navajo ranchers to reach their sheep and cattle for feeding.

With the help of Durango and Farmington media, Laura got the word out to employees, retirees and the community. She was able to collect 13 pairs of snowshoes and 12 pairs of cross-country skis from individuals and businesses in the area.

Laura and husband, Kip, along with San Juan retiree Wayne Dunn, and current San Juan employees Dee Lewis and Rodney Brashear made three deliveries of equipment to the Farmington BLM Office.



Navajo weaver Harriet Tracy used her donated equipment to reach her sheep pen to feed her churro sheep .

There, former San Juan employees Terry Woodall and Vicki Switzer collected the gear for Roanhorse, who made three trips from Window Rock to pick up the donations.

"Several of the recipients had never used skis or snowshoes before, but some have to travel miles to reach their livestock, and the gear helped tremendously," Laura said.

Navajo weaver Harriet Tracy who raises churro sheep for wool, put her skis to good use.

"Ms. Tracy was able to snowshoe to her sheep pen to feed them daily, a distance of two miles each way," Roanhorse said.

The effort played a small but important role in the larger response effort that included the Navajo Nation Emergency Operations, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and a Type II USFS Incident Command Team. The agencies and volunteers worked out of Window Rock, Arizona, to help get food and supplies delivered to Navajo families in need, while the National Guard airlifted supplies to homes on the reservation that were unreachable by land.

"It was amazing to be part of this outreach of one community to another," Stransky said.

(Photos courtesy of Nelson Roanhorse.)



Left to right - Terry Woodall, Nelson Roanhorse, and Laura Stransky with donations.

- Ann Bond

PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS



Charlie's Retiring

DURANGO - BLM Realty Specialist Charlie Higby is retiring after 32 years of government service, including two years in the U.S. Army Infantry in Viet Nam.

Charlie started his federal career in 1983 as a BLM Cadastral Survey Technician in Utah, then moved to Nome, Alaska, the following year in the same capacity. From 1985-1991, Charlie was a seasonal Survey Technician for the BLM Cadastral and USFS Survey in Dolores, Durango and Pagosa Springs.

Charlie landed the job of Realty Specialist for the BLM San Juan Resource Area in 1991. Since then, he has handled BLM realty transactions on public lands in the Dolores, Cortez, Silverton, Durango, Bayfield and Pagosa Springs areas.

Charlie holds a Bachelor's degree in History and English from Fort Lewis College. He and Gail Harriss have been married since 2000. Favorite pastimes include playing guitar, biking and reading. Retirement plans call for more music and more time on the beach.

"I am proud of the contributions I've made in acquiring cultural properties in Canyons of the Ancients, and in providing access easements for the general public, including trail access to the East Animas rock climbing area," Charlie says.

- Ann Bond



Liz helps out with outside chores during a Columbine work day last year with the Leadership Team.

Liz is Promoted

DURANGO - Liz Haydon, who has served as San Juan Program Support Assistant since 2006, has the new job title of San Juan Program Support Specialist.

Her new position will have her serve as the San Juan's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Coordinator. Liz will also continue to assist Mark Stiles, San Juan National Forest Supervisor/BLM Center Manager, and Bill Dunkelberger, San Juan Deputy Supervisor/Associate Center Manager.

Liz's federal career includes more than two decades of work for the Office of the U.S. Trustee, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Defense.

She attended Fort Lewis College and graduated from Air Academy High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

In her spare time, Liz enjoys quilting, genealogy and cooking. She and husband Rick live next door to her mother, while son James, 33, lives in Aurora, and daughter Brandi, 31, a Navy veteran, lives in Bloomfield, New Mexico.

"I look forward to continuing to learn about the USFS and BLM cultures and processes, and to continue working with the great bunch of folks at the PLC and our other offices," Liz says.

**HAPPY SPRING!
FIELD SEASON IS ON ITS WAY.**



PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS



Left to right - Sean Simpson receives a local award this winter from Matt Janowiak, Columbine DR/FO Manager, and Logan Briscoe, BLM Law Enforcement Ranger.

Durango Man Honored for Bravery

DURANGO - Sean Simpson of Durango, who rescued a young boy from the Animas River on BLM lands last summer, will be nationally recognized by the U.S. Department of Interior later this year. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar will present the Citizens Bravery Award to the 20-year-old college student at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. this fall.

Last July 4th, Sean was walking along the Animas River near Silverton when he heard screaming and saw a young boy being carried down the river. Sean immediately ran down a steep embankment and jumped into the deep waters.

"The water was cold and over my head, but I was able to pull him to shore," Sean said. "He wasn't responsive at first, but as I carried him up the bank, he began to cry."

Five-year-old James Wilhelm of Aztec, New Mexico, had been camping with his family upriver when he tumbled into the strong current and was carried away. Both BLM and San Juan County Sheriff law enforcement officers responded.

"We were all just glad it turned out to be a good ending, and we are really grateful to Sean," said Melody Skinner, San Juan County Sheriff Administrative Assistant. Earlier that same season, a woman had drowned downriver in the unusually high flows of the Upper Animas, and two other rafters had nearly died, although equipped with life vests and helmets.

"The river was unusually high for that time of year, and Sean was at the last campsite along the river," said BLM Law Enforcement Officer Logan Briscoe, who responded to the scene. "If the child had been carried around the bend, he would have drowned."

- Ann Bond



Employees Urged to "Go Green" on the 15th of Each Month

DURANGO - In 2010, the San Juan Green Team is encouraging employees to try commute alternatives other than driving solo by holding the "Go Green" Challenge. The goal is to increase awareness of environmentally friendly transportation options.

San Juan employees are encouraged to participate in the "Go Green" challenge by carpooling, taking the bus, biking, or walking to work on the 15th of every month this year. A smarter, greener commute not only helps reduce air pollution and traffic congestion, but can help save on gas and insurance, and vehicle upkeep and maintenance. Those who participate will be entered into quarterly drawings to win prizes.

Finding an alternative even once a month can make a big difference! In the first quarter of this year, 25 employees, or 14 percent of the total workforce, participated. Just these 25 employees saved approximately 3,000 vehicle miles, which translates into 1,385 pounds less carbon dioxide being emitted into the atmosphere.

If you have any questions about the "Go Green" challenge, please call me at (970)385-1309.

- Laurie Yeager

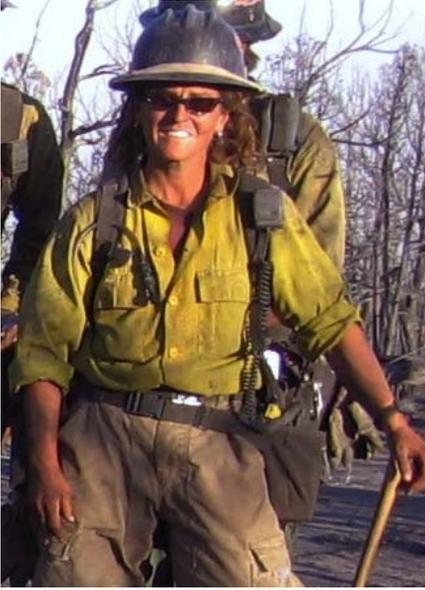
Congratulations to the following employees who received "Go Green" awards for the first quarter of 2010:

John Garcia - aluminum water bottle

Chris Phelps - reusable shopping bag

Ron Duvall - solar flashlight

COLUMBINE NEWS



Shawna Named Operations Section Chief

BAYFIELD - Columbine District Fire Management Officer Shawna Legarza is the USFS Rocky Mountain Region's newest Type I Operations Section Chief after passing Advanced Incident Management training.

"Type 1 Incident Management Teams work on the most complex fire and hazards assignments," Shawna says. "The week-long training simulates a large Type I fire situation with 16-hour shifts and all the stressful situations one faces during an actual event, like evacuating towns, conducting back burns, scrambling for resources, dealing with injuries, etc."

An Operations Chief is responsible for using planning information to implement tactics on the ground to achieve strategic objectives, such as sending slurry bombers to a certain part of a fire, holding a fire line along a certain ridge, putting structure protection in place, implementing back burns, etc.

"There are only two women who are Type I Operations Section Chiefs nationwide," says Matt Janowiak, Columbine District Ranger/Field Manager. "We are very proud to have one of them on Columbine."
- Ann Bond



Jake Takes Off

BAYFIELD - Jacob Thelen will leave his job as Columbine's Prescribed Fire Specialist to become the Assistant Fire Management Officer for the Talladega NF in Alabama. Jacob started his career in Minnesota and came to the San Juan in 2002 to work in prescribed fire, wildfire suppression, and hazardous fuels reduction.

"The Fire Management Position on the Talladega National Forest gives my wife, Sara, and me an opportunity to be closer to her family who live only three hours away in Tennessee," Jacob says.

- Stan Sparks

Pigeon Peak, Columbine Public Lands



COLUMBINE NEWS



Bruce to Work Out of PLC

BAYFIELD - Bruce Bourcy is leaving Columbine for the Public Lands Office in Durango where he will work as the BLM Colorado Southwest District Fuels Archaeologist.

His new duties will be to provide cultural resource work in support of BLM fuels projects for all San Juan offices, as well as the Gunnison and Uncompahgre field offices, and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

Bruce has served as Columbine Archaeologist since 2002. He began his archeological career as an archeological technician in 1994, working for a variety of consulting firms across the country until 1998.

Bruce's first USFS job was as Archeological Technician for the Peaks RD of the Coconino NF in Flagstaff, Arizona. He worked there until 2000, then accepted another Archeological Technician position at Zion National Park.

Bruce holds a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from State University of New York in Oswego.
- Stan Sparks



Jared is New Range Con

BAYFIELD - Jared Whitmer is the new Columbine Range Staff responsible for administering FS and BLM grazing allotments and weed eradication. He comes from the Pleasant Valley RD on the Tonto NF in Young, Arizona, where he began his USFS career in 2002 as Range Sub-staff, before being promoted to the district staff level in 2007.

Jared holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Resource Management from Arizona State University. He also received a Graduate College GIS Certificate in 2002 and a Master's degree in Environmental Resource Management with an emphasis in Wildlife and GIS. He has been a member of the Society for Range Management since 2005.

Jared and wife Aimee have four children - Wyatt, 10; Hannah, 8; Emma, 6; and Jesse, 3. He enjoys spending time with his family, camping, hiking, hunting, photography, riding ATVs and serving as a Boy Scouts volunteer.

"I'm excited to learn some new country in Colorado and work as part of the Columbine Service First Team," Jared says.
- Stan Sparks

SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS PEOPLE

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Read this and past issues online at:
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To submit story ideas, comments or questions, please email:
abond@fs.fed.us

PAGOSA NEWS



Phyllis is Retiring

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Phyllis Wheaton, Pagosa's Visitor Information Assistant since 2007, is retiring this spring after 22 years of federal service. Phyllis was initially detailed to the San Juan in 1997 to work on Recreation and Wilderness projects in the PLC. She soon moved to Pagosa to work as Wilderness Manager, Visitor Information Assistant and Interpretive Services Specialist.

Phyllis began work for the USFS as a volunteer Wilderness Ranger in 1985 on the Summit RD of the Stanislaus NF in the Sierra Nevada north of Yosemite National Park. In 1987, she was hired on by the agency.

"My passion has always been Wilderness," Phyllis says. "With the exception of my children, my greatest joy and reward has come from working as a Wilderness ranger and educator."

Phyllis is also proud of her work with Pagosa's summer interpretive programs.

"I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the many fine, dedicated, capable and fun folks on the San Juan," she says. Her retirement plans include gardening, dancing, fishing, hiking, travel, and time with family and friends. - Ann Bond

(Special thanks to Phyllis for her years of contribution to this employee newsletter!)



Kevin Khung

Paul's Still Filling in for Kevin

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Pagosa District Ranger/Field Manager Kevin Khung has been away on a special detail serving as Acting Forest Supervisor on the Bighorn NF.

Kevin worked on the Bighorn from 2002-2006 as the Recreation and Lands Staff Officer. He is excited for the opportunity to be an Acting Forest Supervisor but also to his return in April to his normal and "immensely enjoyable" position for Pagosa Public Lands.

In Kevin's absence, Pagosa Recreation Staff Paul Blackman has been serving in Kevin's capacity, while retaining his regular duties during the detail.

"Although recreation management has its own complexities," Paul says, "I am enjoying the challenges of digesting and understanding an eye-opening myriad of issues."

- Phyllis Wheaton



Paul Blackman

Chimney Rock Archaeological Area, Pagosa Public Lands



PAGOSA NEWS

Pagosa Receives Grant to Continue Educational Program



Photo Courtesy of Audubon Colorado

A student gets up close and personal with aquatic insects during an outdoors-learning class held by Audubon Colorado on Fourmile Creek on the Four Mile Ranch near Pagosa Springs.

PAGOSA SPRINGS - The Pagosa RD has been chosen as a 2010 recipient of *More Kids in the Woods* grant funding for the Four Mile Ranch Environmental Education Program, which provides science education and outdoor learning to local elementary school students.

Field programs are held at Four Mile Ranch, a 2,200-acre private property adjacent to the San Juan NF. The national grant of \$25,500 will help fund program expansion, educator training, educational materials, equipment, and staff salaries.

The grant is specifically targeted to serve at-risk kids in minority populations. The program offers classroom and field sessions for hundreds of kindergarten through 4th grade students each year.

Lessons encourage environmentally responsible behaviors, physical outdoor activities, environmental literacy, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Students engage in hiking, active games, experimentation, writing, drawing, music, dance, data collection, exploration and unstructured outdoor play.

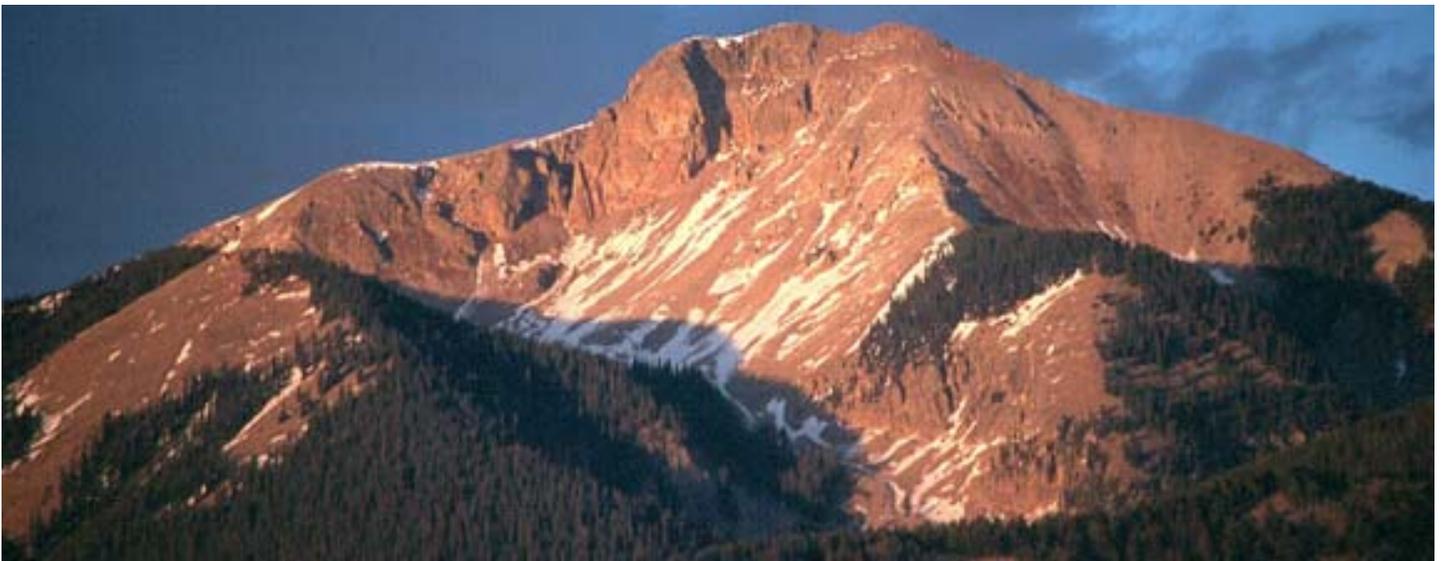
Topics are designed to support state and national science standards and include predator-prey relationships, water-cycle concepts, food webs, habitat, life cycles, insects, animal signs, etc.

Volunteer adult educators are trained by Audubon Colorado, with local USFS personnel leading field programs. The program also offers a learning experience for the adults, who gain knowledge of local natural history and science, and are trained in child development, learning styles, behavior management and outdoor safety.

Partners include Audubon Colorado, The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation and Mrs. Terry Hershey, Four Mile Ranch, Pagosa Public Lands Office, Weminuche Audubon Society, community volunteer educators, and teachers, administrators, parents and students at schools in Pagosa Springs and Dulce, New Mexico.

- Beth Jones

Pagosa Peak, Pagosa Public Lands



DOLORES NEWS



The "Facilities Guy" Retires

DOLORES - Gary Apple, Dolores Public Lands Office Supervisory Forestry Tech, retired this winter after 50 years with the USFS. Gary began his USFS career back in 1966.

"I started on the Glade RD for \$1.94 per hour as a Forestry Technician," Gary says. Back then, the Glade RD had four permanent employees, including the District Ranger, and four to five seasonal employees.

"In those days we did everything," Gary says. "We'd pick up trash along the roads in the spring, work on fence maintenance, stack brush and mark trees, work on spring development and maintenance, and of course, everyone fought fire."

Gary landed his first permanent part-time job in 1978 working on the combined Glade and Dolores RDs in timber, prescribed burning and as a fire guard. In 1989 he became full-time head of the fire program for a decade. After that he moved over to recreation to become the "facilities guy" looking after the District's structures and serving as contact for campground concessionaires.

"During my career in Dolores, I lived through seven different rangers, and four office moves," Gary says. Prior to working for the USFS, he served six years with the National Guard and attended Fort Lewis College.

Gary says he's enjoying retirement working around his place and raising Hereford and British White cattle. He is considering working part time this summer for the USFS or a campground concessionaire. He also plans to spend more time with his daughter Katy and her husband Johnny, his two grandchildren, Kaydence, 2, and Teagon, nine months, and his six dogs. If time allows, he'd like to go fishing.

His parting words of wisdom to fellow feds; "Working for the Forest Service is the best job in the world, whether you know it or not."
- Toni Kelly

Dave Moves Up the Fire Ladder

DOLORES - David Grettenberg has been on board at the DPLO since 2006, where he was originally hired as an Engine Foreman for the Fire Shop. Most recently, he was promoted to Assistant Fire Management Officer and Prescribed Fire Specialist.

Originally from Carroll, Iowa, Dave has many years of fire experience. Prior to coming to Dolores he worked out of the Craig BLM Office as an Engine Foreman. Dave also has several seasons under his belt as a Hot Shot and has worked for the Zigzag Hotshots on the Mount Hood NF in Oregon, and the Santa Fe Hot Shots in New Mexico.

Dave enjoys hunting, and rumor has it that he has quite the collection of skate boards.

- Toni Kelly

Lizard Head Wilderness, Dolores Public Lands



DOLORES NEWS



Ivan is New Biologist

DOLORES - Ivan Messinger is the newest biologist to join the DPLO Wildlife Team. Ivan is not only a new recruit for the Dolores Office but is also new to the Federal Government and USFS.

Originally from Phoenix, Ivan moved to Dolores in 2004 to work as a wildlife biologist for private environmental consulting firms.

He graduated from the Mississippi State University College of Forest Resources, Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture. Ivan and wife Erica have one son, Graham, 3.

“Being a father of a three year old takes up most of my time, but occasionally I get to go out and climb, paddle, bike, ski, and fly fish,” Ivan says.

- Toni Kelly



Debbie's the New Queen of NEPA

DOLORES - Debbie Kill is the DPLO's new NEPA Coordinator. Debbie transferred to the DPLO in 2007 as Reforestation Forester, a position she has held for the past three years working with the Aspen Restoration and Forest Health Environmental Analysis and coordinating Knudsen-Vandenberg projects.

“Now I get to be involved in lots of other resource areas, like range, oil and gas and travel management, and I look forward to learning BLM processes,” Debbie says.

After graduating from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor's degree in Forestry in 1984, Debbie went to work for a private stand-exam contractor and worked seasonally for the Manti-La Sal and Coconino NFs in stand exams and fire prevention.

In 1989 she was hired as District NEPA Coordinator for the Peaks RD on the Coconino NF, and in 2003 became the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership Coordinator. In 2004, Debbie served as the North Zone NEPA Coordinator on the Ottawa NF in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Husband David works at the Anasazi Heritage Center. Their teenage daughter Amanda attends Dolores Middle School. Debbie enjoys tutoring at the middle school, volunteering for the girls' swim team, taking yoga classes, and playing tourist in the Four Corners area.

- Toni Kelly



Kathy Receives National Award

DOLORES - Kathy Nickell, Lead DPLO Wildlife Biologist recently received a National Elk Conservation Award from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

San Juan Public Lands Manager Mark Stiles accepted the award on Kathy's behalf earlier this spring at the 26th Annual Elk Camp and Outdoor Expo in Reno, Nevada. Kathy could not attend because she had already booked a vacation to Todos Santos, Baja, Mexico.

Kathy has been battling cancer for more than a year now, yet has still managed to go beyond “just managing” her resources. Some of her top accomplishments include continued efforts to improve the quality and quantity of elk forage, distribution and habitat over 7,000 acres of public lands.

Her efforts have proven to successfully reduce elk damage to adjacent private agricultural lands. In addition, her work has improved conditions for the Gunnison sage grouse, desert bighorn sheep, mule deer and associated species.

“This work is making an ecological impact for these species and is a cornerstone of the Colorado BLM's Healthy Landscapes Initiative,” said Steve Beverlin, Dolores Public Lands Office Manager.

- Toni Kelly

DOLORES NEWS



Ranger Rick and Kathy in their natural environment.

Ranger Rick Paddles on

DOLORES - “Ranger Rick” Ryan is retiring after 18 years with the BLM. Rick began work as a Recreation Technician in 1992 in Durango, transferring to Dolores in 2003. Over the course of his career, he has served in many roles, from Recreation Assistant to River Ranger.

Rick may be best known for managing the Lower Dolores River corridor. During the seasons of “boatable” water, he conducted as many patrol trips as he could squeeze in.

In addition to public contact, Rick handled trash pickup, weed control (including Tamarisk eradication) and resource monitoring. He also managed commercial boating permits and monitored each permit.

Rick served as the San Juan’s “Leave No Trace” coordinator and oversaw construction work and maintenance at trailheads and on trails for several BLM recreation sites, such as Sand Canyon, Bradfield Campground and Boat Launch, Box Elder Campground, BLM Wilderness Study Areas and more.

Rick says he wouldn’t have been able to carry the load without his trusty sidekick and wife of 38 years, Kathy, who has donated countless hours of volunteer time to the BLM over the years.

Prior to his BLM career, Rick was an educator at elementary and high schools in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina. He also spent many years as an instructor and guide in the

outdoor recreation field.

Rick holds a Master’s degree in Outdoor Education from Northwestern State University and a Bachelor’s degree in Physical Education from Southeastern Louisiana University.

The Ryans are well-known musicians in the Four Corners and have performed both as a duo and with their bluegrass band, *Ranger Rick and the Swamp Things*. They enjoy beach camping, surfing, and exploring the backcountry. Their family includes daughter Summer and son-in-law Sean, and grandkids, Dylan, 11, and Larkin, 9.

Retirement plans include staying in the local area, spending more time with family and friends, and “playing more music and doing more camping and exploring,” Rick says.

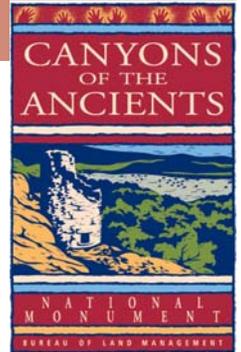
“I like to think I have been a good steward of our natural resources, especially the Dolores River, through development of ethical messages and practices, public contact and interpretation, and demonstration,” Rick says. “I am most proud of all the individuals I have worked with on the San Juan who call me their friend.”

- Toni Kelly

Dolores River Canyon, Dolores Public Lands



AHC/CANM NEWS



Heather Moves from Planning to Implementation

DOLORES - Heather Musclow, former Canyons of the Ancients Planner, is now the Natural Resource Specialist for the National Monument. She will be handling implementation for the Plan and Recovery Act projects.

Prior to coming to the Anasazi Heritage Center, Heather detailed to the Monti LaSalle NF in Utah as Recreation Program Manager and also worked as Supervisory Range/Wildlife Biologist for the Moab and Monticello RDs. Heather served another detail on the Shasta-Trinity NF in California as Range Staff Officer.

Before her federal career, Heather worked as Information and Education Manager for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. She also taught classes in botany, biology, environmental issues and birds of prey at Canyonlands Field Institute and California Polytechnic University.

Heather graduated from the Utah Peace Officers Academy as a Special Function Law Enforcement Officer, and holds a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University in California and a Master's degree in Biology from California Polytechnic University.

Heather and husband Rudy, a retired Chief of Law Enforcement for Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, have two Welsh springer spaniels and four Tennessee walking horses. She enjoys playing and writing music for piano, accordion, and melodica. Heather also enjoys collecting and refinishing antiques, gardening and horseback riding.

"I'm excited about my new job mainly because I get to reconnect with the land by being out on it," Heather says. "It's also a wonderful opportunity to make sure the new resource management plan doesn't just get put on a shelf. I'm going to be in charge of implementing it."

- Ann Bond



Timeline Marches On

DOLORES - This year the Anasazi Heritage Center had the good fortune to host Exhibits Intern Laura Browarny. Laura arrived last fall to work on preliminary research for the upgraded Timeline Exhibit in the AHC main gallery, and continued through March, working eventually under a personal services contract.

Laura's contributions have been both valuable and varied – including creating more than 30 linear feet of rock art designs high on the walls above the timeline exhibit.

Laura came to the Heritage Center from the Education Department of the National Museum of the American Indian, George Gustav Heye Center, in New York City, where she will return this summer to again develop and present its children's programs.

Stay tuned for further updates on the new Timeline Exhibit.

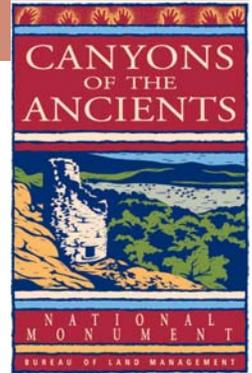
- Victoria Atkins

Laura Browarny and Cody Farias creating 'ancient' handprints reminiscent of Ancestral Pueblo designs.

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument



AHC/CANM NEWS



Heritage Center to Host Demonstration Garden



Big-fringed sage in the Heritage Center plaza garden.

DOLORES - The Anasazi Heritage Center has been selected to host a *Plant Select*[®] Demonstration Garden. It joins some 90 public gardens at fairgrounds, fire stations, libraries, parks and businesses throughout the Rocky Mountains and High Plains.

Plant Select is a cooperative plant introduction and promotion program started more than 25 years ago by Colorado State University and Denver Botanic Gardens. The program's demonstration gardens test species of plants for their beauty, resilience, low maintenance and suitability to specific regions.

The AHC joins Cliffrose/Your High Desert Gardens in Cortez as *Plant Select* demonstration locations in southwestern Colorado. Other demonstration gardens on the Western Slope can be found at the San Miguel County Fairgrounds and Montrose Botanic Garden.

Plant Select demonstration species will be added to the Heritage Center's current plaza garden with the goal of testing their suitability for local growing conditions.

With the help of the Montezuma County Master Gardeners, the Heritage Center will also be expanding its educational program on native and garden plants and upgrading the landscaping around the entry and parking areas of the museum.

"We're excited about the improvements this project will make for our visitors" said LouAnn Jacobson, AHC Director. "The timing is perfect with the recent upgrade of our plaza area."

The new *Plant Select* species will be delivered to the Heritage Center in June. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with planting and landscaping can call 970 882-5612 for more information.

- Renee Farias



Rocky Mountain Columbine in the AHC plaza.



The Anasazi Heritage Center has been operated by the Bureau of Land Management since 1988. As Southwestern Colorado's premier archaeological museum, it features the Ancestral Puebloan, or Anasazi culture, and other Native cultures in the Four Corners region. It is also the starting point for visits to Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The museum features permanent exhibits, 12th-century archaeological sites, special events, and extensive educational and research resources. For more information on the BLM-Anasazi Heritage Center, please visit www.co.blm.gov/ahc.