



San Juan Public Lands People

News for San Juan Public Lands
employees, retirees & partners
Fall 2009 Issue



San Juan National Forest
San Juan BLM Field Office

Veterans Find Green Jobs

PAGOSA SPRINGS - The Veterans Green Corps (VGC) is up and running in Southwestern Colorado, putting returning veterans back to work reducing wildfire hazards, improving forest health and providing trail maintenance on San Juan Public Lands.

The effort is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to offer veterans employment in emerging conservation careers, while stimulating the economies of rural communities.

Crews are trained by the local nonprofit Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC), in coordination with Veterans Green Jobs, a national nonprofit offering education and career development.

The veterans receive nine weeks of training at the Colorado Fire Camp in Salida to become certified as Class A fellers. They also go through firefighter training and are Red-Card qualified, which makes them eligible for work on a U.S. Forest Service fire crew.

"We're currently overseeing three crews of eight members each," says VGC Coordinator Jason Lawrence, an Air Force veteran. "Two are working as sawyer crews on the San Juan National Forest; the other as a trail crew on the Rio Grande National Forest."

The sawyer crews are hand-thinning dense forests adjacent to private property and recreational sites this fall near Pagosa Springs. SCC is providing equipment and supplies, while the USFS administers the projects.

"Several have inquired about jobs in the Forest Service, and this is good experience if they do have an interest in a government career or similar type of work," says Pagosa RD Fuels Forester Scott Wagner. "They're very safety conscious and have a positive attitude."

Scott says the crews have been invaluable in areas where he can't use prescribed fire or mechanical equipment to reduce fire danger because of proximity to recreational use, homes, or archaeological sites. In other areas, steep topography and rocky terrain make hand thinning a necessity.

Over the next two years, plans are to train up to 50 veterans in Colorado. Amy Foss, SCC Director of Operations, says federal ARRA dollars are funding 60 weeks of work for sawyer crews on the San Juan and 60 weeks of work for trail crews on the Rio Grande this year.

"In 2010, ARRA funding will allow us to hire four sawyer crews and four trail crews, with each assignment lasting 12 weeks," Amy says. "We expect funding for the Veterans Green Corps crews to continue until 2011."



Veterans Green Corps (VGC) crew member Steven Parker of Pagosa Springs, who served in the Marines, takes a break from a thinning project north of Pagosa Springs with crew leader Josh Sherrock, a Marine who served in Iraq and Kuwait, and VGC Coordinator Jason Lawrence, an Air Force veteran.



- Ann Bond

PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS



Kristie Retires

DURANGO - Kristie Arrington retired this fall after 32 years with the BLM. She spent the last nine years as BLM archaeologist for the Southwest Colorado Fuels Team. Prior to that, she served as BLM San Juan Resource Area Archaeologist.

"I'm most proud of communicating enthusiasm for cultural resources and the landscape in such a manner as to inspire understanding and appreciation," Kristie says of her career.

She holds a Bachelors degree in Archaeology and Geology. Kristie and partner Shirley Nolan enjoy exploring, archaeology, woodworking, and music. Retirement plans include working around the house and exploring public lands.

"I've learned so much from the people I've worked with about trust and communication and resources and outdoor skills," Kristie says. "I have many great friends and colleagues with an abundant amount of patience and tolerance. I just want to say thank you!"

- Ann Bond

Randy Retires

DURANGO - Randy Lewis retired this fall after 35 years with the BLM. He worked on the San Juan since 1987 as Petroleum Engineering Technician, Environmental Protection Specialist and Hazardous Fuels Specialist.

Randy started with the BLM in 1974 as Engineering Technician in Burley, Idaho, transferring to Shoshone, Idaho, in 1976. He moved to Montrose, Colorado in 1977 for a permanent position in Engineering, working there for a decade before moving to Durango.

Randy holds an Associate Degree in Civil Engineering Technology from Idaho State University. Hobbies include hunting, shooting and fishing. He and wife, Dee, have two married daughters, one grandson and one granddaughter.

"I intend to relax, go fishing on weekdays when it's not crowded, do some home-repair projects and visit my grandkids," he says.

- Ann Bond



**WORK IS JUST
REHEARSAL FOR
RETIREMENT**



Fall Retiree Potluck Planned

DURANGO - The Leadership Team for the San Juan would like to thank all of the retirees who attended the Regional Leadership Team BBQ on July 14th.

We received comments from retirees and San Juan employees that they want another opportunity to "party" together this year. So we've scheduled a San Juan Employee/Retiree Potluck at the Public Lands Center for Thursday, October 22 at 11:45 am. This is to be a potluck-only event, so every attendee should bring a dish offering at least four servings.

We'll also use this event to kick off the holiday season and would like for everyone to bring a canned item of human or pet food to be donated to the local food pantry. No RSVPs needed. We hope to see you there!

- Liz Haydon,

San Juan Executive Assistant/FOIA Coordinator

PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS

Chris Retires

DURANGO - Chris Buckman, Durango Inter-agency Dispatch Center Manager since 2001, retired this fall after 32 years of federal service.

Prior to coming to the San Juan, Chris was Assistant Area Coordinator at the multi-agency Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center in Denver for more than a decade.

In the 1980s, she worked in timber, fire and recreation on the Pikes Peak RD of the Pike/San Isabel NF.

Chris enjoys renovating houses, gardening, and landscaping. Her retirement plans include "enjoying every moment," and spending time with family, friends, and husband Bob Dettmann, also retired from the USFS and a San Juan alum.

"Remember, life is short, and there is more to life than just work," she says. "Work hard, play hard, and enjoy every moment." Chris says she's proud of helping to create one of the best interagency dispatch centers in the nation. "All the interagency cooperators are like a family and continuously are there to help one another," she says.

- Ann Bond



"Family photo" on the beach in San Pedrito, Baja, Mexico: Bob and Chris with their "kids," Katie (white) and Maggie (black).



Mark Receives Wilderness Award

DURANGO - San Juan Public Land Center Manager Mark Stiles travels to Washington, D.C. this fall to receive the Line Officer Wilderness Leadership Award at the 2009 National Wilderness Awards Ceremony.

Stiles leads the management of almost two million acres of National Forest lands in southwestern Colorado, of which more than 400,000 acres are protected under the Wilderness Bill, including Colorado's largest Wilderness area, the Weminuche. San Juan National Forest Wilderness staff submitted Stiles for the prestigious award. In their nomination, they wrote:

"Mark makes wilderness management a priority among the many multiple uses that demand his attention. He understands the value of wilderness for watershed protection, connectivity of wildlife migration corridors, and as tool for mitigating climate change.

Mark is an avid user of the wilderness and reports back to his staff about his personal observations and experiences. He knows what trails are in need of repair and fully engages his staff in active discussions about wilderness stewardship issues.

Mark also makes a point of reaching out to community members to help them understand the concept of wilderness, even if they believe their views run counter to wilderness values. In fact, he sees this as an opportunity to share his belief that unmodified landscapes can and do offer many social benefits to current and future generations."



GREEN TEAM TIPS

Did you know?

America could save more than 400,000 trees if each family bought a roll of recycled toilet paper - just once. Recycled tissue products help protect ancient forests, clean water, and wildlife habitat. It's easier on the Earth to make tissues from paper instead of trees.

PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS

San Juan Contractor Recognized for Work

DURANGO - The Winer family of Durango, who own and operate local KW Enterprises, traveled to Washington, D.C., this summer to accept a national award from both the U.S. Department of Agriculture and USFS as 2009 Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year for their contracting work on the San Juan NF.

KW Enterprises, which was started by Kathy Winer in 1993, specializes in excavation, road building and other services.

Since 1996, KW has successfully completed several projects for the San Juan, including road reconstruction, gravel hauling, campground renovation, fire suppression and construction of retaining walls, trailhead facilities, bridges, fish barriers and culverts.

Last year, the company worked on nine San Juan NF projects, including reconstruction of Cayton Campground north of Rico and the repair of seven roads damaged by landslides.

KW Enterprises was honored for completing their projects on schedule and exceeding contract specifications, and also cited for completing projects correctly and often ahead of schedule, resulting in lower costs.

The company was recognized for its safety record during complex and potentially dangerous operations, for helping to educate the public onsite, and safely allowing public access through worksites.

- Ann Bond



WASHINGTON, D.C. - (From left) Steve, Kathy, Mike, and Myrna Winer of KW Enterprises accept a national award from Ron Hooper, USFS Acquisition Director. The Durango company was named 2009 Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year by both the USDA and USFS.

Celebrating the Skyway

SILVERTON - San Juan Public Lands employees joined sponsors and members of the public at Molas Lake Park this summer to mark completion of the second phase of land, water and recreation projects along the San Juan Skyway. The Skyway is a 236-mile highway that connects Durango, Silverton, Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride, Rico, Dolores, Cortez and Mancos. It has been named both a National Forest Scenic Byway and All American Road.

Work on the 16 projects started in 2005 with a \$5.7 million challenge grant from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). More than 30 partners, including cities, counties, private foundations, individuals and landowners supplemented the GOCO grant with \$11.8 million.



The first phase included \$15 million worth of land acquisition and preservation of historic structures in the Red Mountain Pass area, funded by GOCO, the Colorado State Historical Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

A third phase has been launched with a \$4.4 million challenge grant from GOCO, which requires \$6 million in local matching funds.

The goal is to acquire conservation easements on seven working ranches along the Skyway.

- Ann Bond



PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS



New Purchasing Agents Hired

DURANGO - The San Juan has two new Purchasing Agents facilitating the purchase of goods, materials, and supplies at the Public Lands Center.

Keith Rountree recently moved here from Palmer, Alaska, where he was Public Works Director for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and where he earlier worked as Project Management and Engineering Division Manager.

Keith served in the U.S. Air Force from 1984 to 2004, including as Squadron Commander for a ROTC Detachment at New Mexico State University. During his military career, he worked at Air Force bases in Massachusetts, Wyoming, Manitoba, Germany, Alaska, and California.

Keith holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and Environmental Planning from Arizona State University, a Master's of Engineering Management from the University of Alaska at Anchorage, and a Masters of Arts in Teaching from the New Mexico State University.

He and wife, Jean, have two adult children, son Chad, 24, and daughter Danielle, 23. Keith enjoys many outdoor activities and reading. "I feel great about working for the agencies," Keith says.

Sharla Lowe was born and raised in Durango and previously worked as a manager of the local Linens and Things before the store closed. She joined the military in 1982 and lived in North Carolina until 2002, when she returned to Durango. She also served in the military for five years in telecommunications, working on radios, towers, and microwave towers.

Sharla holds an Associates Degree in Business Marketing and Design from Fayetteville Community College in North Carolina. She has two boys; Michael, 25, and Cameron, 20, and enjoys black and white photography, working in her flower garden and hiking with her dog, Jake.

"I love my new job here and am thankful for the opportunity," Sharla says. "Everyone has been so welcoming. I look forward to being a part of the big picture and learning what I can so that I can be an asset to this office and the government as a whole."

- Ann Bond



Mary Named Lead Civil Engineer

DURANGO - Mary Blanchard has been promoted to the San Juan's Lead Civil Engineer. In her new position, she will serve as team lead for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects for both BLM and USFS.

"We have received stimulus funding for trails, roads, facilities, historic site restoration work, and forest health projects," Mary says. "I'll be working with staff on the Districts and in the PLC, as well as with our partners, on the planning, budgeting, scheduling, implementation and reporting for these projects."

Mary started her USFS career as a Civil Engineer in 1992 on the Tongas NF. From 1993 to 2004, she worked as a private environmental and engineering consultant before being hired as a Civil Engineer on the San Juan. In 2006, Mary was promoted to Civil Engineer, with an emphasis on transportation planning. She also served as Acting San Juan NF Engineer from May 2008 through April 2009.

Mary holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Florida and a Professional Engineer's license.

"I look forward to helping our staff get some much needed work done on the ground, while providing jobs Southwestern Colorado communities that have been impacted by the slowing economy," Mary says.

- Ann Bond

PAGOSA NEWS



Britt's Working in Fuels

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Britt Quinlan spent the summer this year overseeing the Pagosa RD fuels crew's work on thinning projects, prescribed fire, and initial wildfire attack in his new position as Fuels Crew Supervisor.

Britt says he "grew up smelling smoke" in Payson, Arizona. While acquiring his Bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation from Northern Arizona University, he worked in fire on the Tonto NF. He served two years as a crewmember with the Payson Hotshots, and three years as a crewmember on the Tonto NF heli-rappel crew, providing support to helicopter operations, initial attack and fire.

Britt's first permanent position was as a senior crew member for the Bridgeport Rappel Crew on the Humboldt-Toiyabe NF. He has also worked as a lead crewmember for the Kaibab NF Helitack/Rappel crew and as a smokejumper with the North Cascades Smokejumper Base on the Okanogen-Wenatchee NFs.

His wife, Cheri, who has worked nine seasons in fire, is currently working on Pagosa's timber crew. In their spare time they are remodeling their first house and helping her family with ranch work in New Mexico.

- Phyllis Wheaton



Jay Returns to the Mountains

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Jeremiah (Jay) Thatcher returned to the Pagosa RD this summer as Fire Engine Captain.

His career with the USFS started in recreation on the Council RD of the Payette NF. He soon moved into fire positions in Council and McCall, Idaho. From 2004 through 2005, J was Assistant fire Engine Captain for Pagosa. He left in 2006 to become Station Manager/Engine Module Supervisor at Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida.

"I enjoy forming a team from individuals who come from various backgrounds," Jay says.

He, his wife Tensy and children Solomon, 6, and Olwen, 3, are glad to return to the mountains and Pagosa Springs.

- Phyllis Wheaton

DID YOU KNOW ...

- ◊ On June 3, 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt signed a Proclamation that created 2 million acres of National Forest in Southwest Colorado. This federal land is now known as the San Juan National Forest.
- ◊ San Juan Public Lands encompass 2.5 million acres of National Forest and BLM lands, ranging from rugged mountains and alpine tundra to timbered glades to high-desert ecosystems across 11 counties in Southwest Colorado.
- ◊ Under the Service First Initiative, the San Juan National Forest and the BLM San Juan Field Center work as a joint entity to manage the San Juan Public Lands.
- ◊ Colorado's largest Wilderness, the Weminuche, spans 463,678 acres across both the San Juan and Rio Grande National Forests in Southwest Colorado.
- ◊ Colorado's largest roadless area outside of Wilderness, the Hermosa Roadless Area, covers 148,000 acres of the San Juan National Forest.

COLUMBINE NEWS



Matt Named New Ranger

BAYFIELD - Matt Janowiak has been named the new Columbine District Ranger / Field Office Manager. He says his new job is to help the Columbine staff do their jobs as well as they can.

"I'm honored, overwhelmed, and happy because this is a job that is challenging and rewarding on so many levels," Matt says. "The people on the Columbine are passionate about public lands, and it is an honor to work with them."

Matt worked on the San Juan from 1999 to 2004 as a BLM Geologist. He returned to the San Juan in 2007 as Assistant Center Manager for Physical Resources after leaving for a stint as Assistant Field Manager for the BLM Miles City Field Office in Montana.

Matt holds a Bachelor's degree in Earth Science from Notre Dame, a Master's in Geology from the University of Wisconsin, and has worked toward a research PhD in Geology in Bern, Switzerland through a Swiss National Science Foundation Fellowship.

He and wife, Madeleine, are the proud parents of spoiled border collie, Shadow, and two pet birds who get along great with the dog - most of the time. Matt enjoys hiking, fishing, hunting, rafting, skiing and mountain biking. He also loves to cook and ride his motorcycle, among other things.

- Ann Bond

DURANGO - Brent Lewis from the Science and Technology Office of the BLM National Operations Center in Denver will be next in line to fill in behind Matt Janowiak as Acting Assistant Center Manager for Physical Resources in the PLC. Brent will arrive in early October for an up to 120-day detail into the position. Previously serving as Acting ACM were San Juan Hydrologist Kelly Palmer and San Juan Minerals Chief Rick Rymerson.



Another Matt Named Snow Ranger

BAYFIELD - Matt Dayer will be watching over Columbine's USFS/BLM winter sports program as the new Snow Ranger. Most recently, he worked for the Southern Ute Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs in Ignacio as Forestry/Fuels Tech.

Matt originally worked for Columbine back in 1997 as a seasonal Forestry Aid and served as Assistant Hand Crew Foreman from 2001 to 2004.

Over the years, Matt spent his winters as a seasonal ski patroller/snow safety/avalanche forecaster at Monarch Mountain and Durango Mountain Resort in Colorado, and in Park City, Utah and Big Sky, Montana.

He holds a Bachelor's in Exercise Science from Fort Lewis College. Matt and wife, Jenn, enjoy backcountry and Nordic skiing, surfing and traveling.

"I am passionate about winter recreation, and it is a privilege to take over the program Denny Hogan has started," he says.

Matt will be working out of Columbine's Silverton office.

- Stan Sparks



COLUMBINE NEWS



A Message from the "Cleaning Lady"

DURANGO - As a member of the Columbine Developed Recreation Crew, I drive the forest roads from La Plata Canyon to Beaver Meadows, South Mineral Creek to Spring Creek in my green truck looking for "trash and ash."

It amazes me what people leave behind in their campsites. Aside from cigarette butts (which can take up to five years to decompose) and beer cans (80-100 years), I've picked up clothes, boots, tents, backpacks, all manner of bedding, pounds of spent brass and shotgun shells, grills large and small, pots and pans, huge chest freezers and camping equipment.

Two springs ago, I found all the packaging from a new hunting camp someone unpacked the previous fall. That same day, I found a kitchen cabinet full of silverware, pots and pans hidden behind a tree. I've accumulated a lifetime supply of tent stakes.

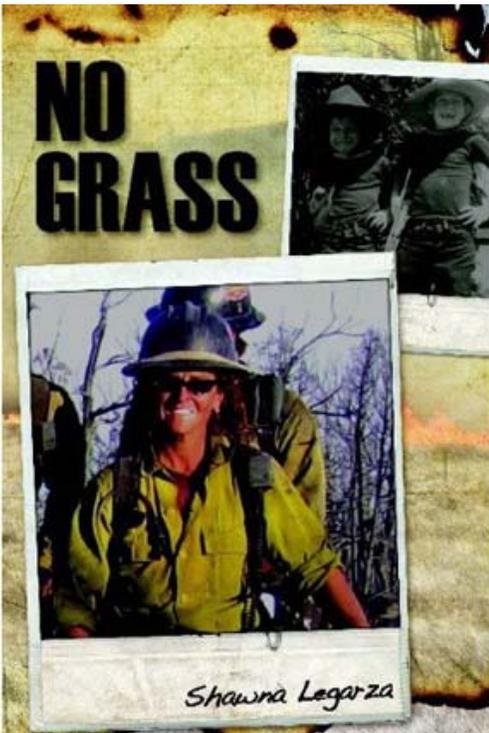
Then there are the latrines - I've found everything from seats nailed on limbs between trees, bottomless buckets, and hospital bedside toilets to expensive self-contained composting units.

Cans, bottles and nails don't burn, so when we clean fire rings, we have to pick out every bit of trash before disposing of the ashes. (I've often wanted to invite Mike Rowe from the show "Dirty Jobs" to spend a day with us.)

Not only do we have to haul trash out to the landfill, we must bag and haul out ash. Sometimes campers dig the ashes out and dump them under nearby trees and bushes creating a huge fire hazard and an ugly campsite that's

really difficult to clean up. Then there are the people who just build another ring next to the first one, scarring the land and sterilizing the soil yet again.

PLEASE encourage your hunting buddies to brush up on their "Pack it in - Pack it out" and "Leave No Trace" ethics before they head out into the backcountry this year. - Missy Carter, Columbine Developed Recreation Crew Member



Shawna's Published

AMAZON.COM REVIEW - Wildland firefighters, especially "hotshots," are a breed alone. It is a lifestyle many will never understand. They are dispatched throughout the nation, always ready to work in the very worst kind of disaster. They sleep wherever it's safe and often do not shower for weeks.

So why would a young woman, reared on a cattle ranch, give up the open spaces for a life of danger? This is only one of the questions answered with humor and insight in Shawna Legarza's memoir.

After working her way through college as a firefighter, the author was part of the World Trade Center Recovery Efforts, where she met her husband who, like Legarza, was a firefighter. When he took his own life, the author mustered a new brand of courage and formed a nonprofit program to help physically and emotionally wounded firefighters, too brave to ask for help. This is a passionately told story, filled with determination and hope.

Shawna Legarza, "Legz," as she became known throughout the wildland firefighting community, was raised in northern Nevada. Her adventure as a cowgirl evolves into a career as a wildland firefighter.

She has worked on fires throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as assignments for the World Trade Center Recovery Efforts, Hurricane Rita and Greensburg Tornado.

Currently, Legarza is a Fire Management Officer for the U.S. Forest Service. The author, who resides in Durango, Colorado, has earned three degrees—two Bachelors and a Master's and is currently enrolled in a doctoral program in Psychology. This is her first book.

- Amazon Books

COLUMBINE NEWS



Jacob Joins Columbine

BAYFIELD - Jacob Thelan, formerly Heavy Engine Captain in Pagosa, is now Prescribed Fire Specialist for Columbine. Jacob started his career in Minnesota and came to the San Juan in 2002. He also has experience working on a 20-person fuels crew in Klamath Falls, Oregon, which earned national recognition for its work.

Jacob has worked in prescribed fire, wildfire suppression, and hazardous fuels reduction. He was instrumental in working with the cooperators in Archuleta County on fire preparedness and response. He is currently chairman for the San Juan NF Operations Committee and serves on the safety committee, training committee, and Regional Engine Committee. His qualifications include Incident Commander Type 4, Firing Boss and Burn Boss Type 2 trainee.

- *Shawna Legarza, Columbine Fire Management Officer*



Mike Takes Outfitter/Guide Job

Bayfield- Mike Herin is Columbine’s new Outfitter and Guide Administrator. He joins the Recreation Program after spending the last year and half working as a Range Technician for Columbine.

Mike began his USFS career in 1995 with the Payson Hotshots on the Tonto NF. Since then, he has worked as Assistant Engine Foreman for the Dolores Public Lands Office, Squad Boss for the Cedar City Hot Shots of the Dixie NF, and Engine Foreman for Columbine.

Prior to his federal career, Mike worked as a farrier and for an outfitter and guide in Arizona.

Mike enjoys socializing, hunting, fishing, hiking, and playing on the Columbine softball team.

- *Stan Sparks*



(This letter was sent to the Columbine Office this summer)



June 16, 2009

To: Matthew Janowiak, Columbine Ranger District

On June 15, 2009, a deputy with the Marshal’s Office attempted to contact a female driver for possible drunk driving. The driver fled, and a subsequent pursuit ensued. While traveling eastbound on US Highway 160 on Yellow Jacket Pass, the driver accelerated to about 100 mph. At the bottom of the pass, she left the roadway, and an extremely violent crash occurred.

After rolling a number of times, the vehicle came to rest on its top, pinning the driver under the dashboard of the crushed vehicle, making it impossible to remove the driver.

<Your employees> Mike Herin and Ben Otero were two of the first people on the scene. Mike attempted to contact the driver to determine injuries or signs of life. Ben grabbed safety equipment and monitored the volatile condition of the damaged vehicle, as Mike and a deputy marshal were on their stomachs on either side of the vehicle. Mike was able to maintain contact with her in an attempt to determine the extent of injuries and to comfort her.

Mike and Ben remained with the driver and the vehicle until they were relieved by responding emergency personnel. Their actions, assistance, and demeanor were exemplary. Please thank and commend them for me.

James A Harrington
Marshal, Town of Bayfield

COLUMBINE NEWS



(Above and right) Rowdy and Daisy hard at work removing hazard trees from the corral and yard at the Granite Peaks Guard Station this summer.

Rowdy says he looks forward to seeing grizzlies and wolves in the backcountry of Montana, but will miss his Columbine coworker, Daisy. He “hired” Daisy from the R-2 mule packstring years ago.

“I wanted another mule for Columbine and was intrigued by the fact she had been raised Amish, had solid family values, and was broke to drive.”

Since then, the District has used Daisy extensively to do the heavy work on a variety of projects.

“She has packed fence materials, spring development materials and other supplies,” Rowdy says. “She has been in parades and has skidded materials over snow at Silverton to reconstruct an old boarding house. She has skidded so much stuff, like wire panels old refrigerators and stoves out of the woods, that I can’t keep track of it all.”

Rowdy says he hopes the District will take good care of Daisy in his absence.

“She’s getting on in years now and has to be treated very carefully as it’s harder to work hard when you get older,” he says from experience. “She also is very prone to founder and cannot be allowed to graze unrestricted.” - *Ann Bond*

Rowdy Heads North

BAYFIELD - Rowdy Wood, Columbine Range Program Lead for the past eight years, headed to Montana this fall to become Range Staff Officer on the Lewis and Clark and Helena NFs.

Rowdy started with the USFS in 1986 first as trails foreman and hotshot crew member on the Bighorn NF, then in developed recreation and special uses. He next joined the Rocky Mountain Helitack crew on the Pike/San Isabel NFs, and later worked as Wildlife/Range Staff for the Comanche National Grassland. In 1991, Rowdy moved to the White River NF to handle its range and outfitter/guide programs. He moved up to the Medicine Bow/Routt NF as Zone Range Staff before coming to the San Juan.

Rowdy holds Bachelor’s degrees in Wildlife Management and Range Ecology.



Esther is New Tanker Base Assistant

Bayfield- Esther Schnur is the San Juan’s new Tanker Base Assistant. Most recently, she worked for the Price Valley Heli-Rappellers on the Payette NF in McCall, Idaho. She began her USFS career in 1999, working on engine and hand crews for the Helena NF.

Esther has completed details to the Ashley NF Kings Peak RD Fire Use Module, as a Boise NF crew boss, and a prescribed fire fuels specialist on the San Juan. She attended the Fire Use Training Academy in 2006 and returns annually as a Region 3 instructor. Esther is also a facilitative instructor at the Great Basin Training Unit in Boise, Idaho.

Esther graduated from Colorado State University in 2003 with Bachelor’s degree in Forest Sciences and Natural Resource Management and a minor in Fire Science. She also holds a Masters degree in Forest Fire Science, with specialization in Watershed Science from CSU.

Esther enjoys running with her border collie, Frau, and boyfriend, Jay Godson, who is Assistant Superintendent on the San Juan Hotshot Crew. She’s also reigning All-Terrain Mountain Croquet Champion in McCall, Idaho.

- *Stanley Sparks*

DOLORES NEWS

Guard Station Gets FaceLift

DOLORES - The National Smokejumper Association, local volunteers and San Juan archaeologists spent a week this summer restoring the historic Glade Guard Station.

The group reshingled and painted the garage and shed, established a new trail, installed shutters and a porch railing, and repainted the entire main structure.

The Glade Guard Station was established in 1905 as an administrative facility for the former Montezuma NF. In 1916, the current wood-frame building replaced an original log cabin.

In the 1930s, a Lone Dome Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was set up adjacent to the station, and minor modifications were made, including construction of a garage, meat house (later used as a tool shed), and outhouse. The CCC also built rockwork culverts and drains. The guard station continued to serve various USFS functions until the 1970s.

A grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the San Juan Public Lands Center funded the work. When restoration is complete, the San Juan plans to offer the residence as a recreation rental cabin.

“This ‘can-do’ group got more work done than originally planned,” said San Juan Heritage Lead Julie Coleman. “We hope to carry on the work started by the smokejumpers so future generations can experience the Glade Guard Station.”

- Gwen Ernst-Ulrich,
USFS Rocky Mountain Region



The Three Heroes Trail



MANCOS - A dedication ceremony was held this summer to dedicate the *Three Heroes Trail* on the San Juan National Forest to honor three medical rescuers killed in a helicopter crash. On June 30, 2005, a Tri-State Care emergency helicopter was summoned to assist an injured logger in the vicinity of the Red Arrow Mine in the Echo Basin area. While in route, the helicopter crashed, killing all on board; pilot Jim Saler, flight nurse William Podmayer, and Scott Hyslop, a paramedic with Durango Fire and Rescue Authority.

The families of the deceased approached the USFS through Congressman Salazar’s Durango office to explore a way to memorialize the crash site to honor the ‘Fallen Three.’ DPLO Associate Manager Jamie Sellar-Baker, who was instrumental in accommodating their requests without compromising USFS regulations prohibiting the placement of permanent memorial markers on National Forest lands, opened the dedication ceremony in August.

“We gratefully thank you again for your tremendous efforts. It still is unbelievable that the Three Heroes Trail has been created and dedicated,” says Mary Sue Hyslop, mother of Scott Hyslop.

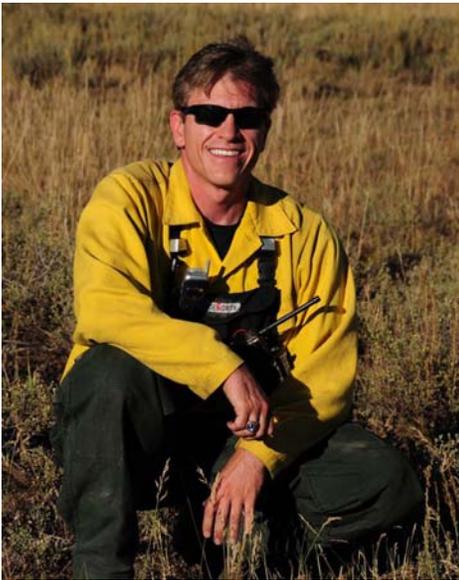
The memorial trail was constructed through the efforts of family members, friends and the DPLO. Future trail maintenance will be handled by volunteers coordinated by the family members.

In a letter the families, Congressman Salazar wrote; “I believe strongly that we can and must improve the safety of air medical flights. In the wake of this tragedy I have worked hard to enact into law measures that would require increased safety requirements for air medical flights. I pledge to you I will do everything in my power to ensure that they pass into law.”

- Toni Kelly

HOW TO GET THERE: To visit the Three Heroes Trail, turn off US Hwy 160 east of Mancos and travel up the Echo Basin Road on FS Road 322. The road forks to the left before the Red Arrow Dome turnoff and continues north along the base of Helmet Peak. The trailhead is about 1000 yards from the fork and is marked with a trail sign.

DOLORES NEWS



Eric Heads South

DOLORES - Eric LaPrice, DPLO Biological Scientist/NEPA Coordinator for the past five years, left this fall for Sedona, Arizona, to be NEPA Planner on the Coconino NF Red Rock RD. Eric also served as DPLO Safety Officer and Fire Information Officer, and handled duties for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

“When I arrived, there had never been a NEPA Coordinator in this office,” Eric says. “It was up to me to create the program from scratch. I feel I have done a good job, and that I have set a very high standard for the position. I believe it will be a difficult void for someone to fill.”

Prior to the San Juan, Eric worked as an environmental scientist for a consulting firm and worked summers as a lifeguard at a Lake Erie state park. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Biology/Ecology, Graduate Certificate in Environmental and Occupational Health and Science, and Master’s degree in Environmental Science.

“I hope the candy dish I maintained at my desk has made NEPA a bit more palatable, and that I have helped many of you understand better the complexities of NEPA issues and litigation, and the intricacies of the safety world,” Eric says.
 - Ann Bond



Jamie’s the New Geologist

DOLORES – Jamie Blair is the new BLM Geologist handling mining and minerals management duties for the DPLO. He comes from Twin Falls, Idaho, where he worked as a USFS Geologist in Region 4.

Jamie started his federal career with the BLM in Pocatello, Idaho, in 2002, working on NEPA for phosphate mining. His first permanent position was as BLM Field Office Geologist in El Centro, California in 2005, where he oversaw sand, gravel, geothermal and gold mining operations.

Jamie holds a Master’s degree in Geology from Idaho State University, and a Bachelor’s degree in Geology from Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania.

He and wife Lara are the parents of William Ivan, age 1, and dog, Bella. Jamie enjoys snowboarding, mountain biking, camping, fishing and canoeing.

“There’s a lot of really cool country around Dolores, especially for a geologist,” he says. “Professionally I’m looking forward to working with specialists in other program areas and finding out more about what they do.”
 - Ann Bond



Dale Donohue Retires

DOLORES - Dale Donohue, DPLO Acting Fire Management Officer, retired after 32 years of service. Dale began his USFS career as a seasonal employee in 1977 as a member of the El Cariso Hotshots on the Trubuco RD of the Cleveland NF. In 1980, he went to the Prescott NF as a member of its Hotshot crew and his first appointment as a permanent employee. Later that year, he returned to the Cleveland NF as a Hotshot on the Palomar RD.

Dale spent more than two decades on the Cleveland NF, working his way up through the fire ranks to Assistant Fire Management Officer. In 1982, he met Diana, a member of the fuels crew, whom he married in 1985. In the fall of 2002, Dale came to the DPLO as Assistant Fire Management Officer.

In his retirement, Dale plans to continue living near Dolores and hunting, fishing, spending time with family, traveling, and dabbling in fire.
 - Eric LaPrice

DOLORES NEWS

Goats Have Appetite for Fuels Reduction

DOLORES – Three years ago, the DPLO hydromowed about 80 acres on the rim of the Dolores River Canyon to reduce fire danger, but by this summer, the oak brush had grown back by almost four feet. Pleasant View Rancher Jerry Heaton, who had been using goats to clear brush on his private property east of Dove Creek, approached DPLO Manager Steve Beverlin with the idea of using goats to keep the oak in check. Steve decided to try it out.

“We like to have as many tools in our tool box as possible when it comes to fuels reduction,” Steve says. “This project allowed us to diversify our management options, and Jerry to diversify his business options.”

Over the summer, Jerry grazed 581 goats in the fuels-reduction unit in the



Northern Boggy Draw area. The herd was confined to one-acre sections with electric net fencing, which was moved daily. DPLO Natural Resource Specialist Todd Gardiner says the goats took out more than 90 percent of new growth.

“Timing is important,” Todd says. “If the goats defoliate the oak while it’s actively growing, we have a better chance of knocking it back. We’re not trying to get rid of it, just keep it in check in a younger, smaller state that doesn’t burn as readily.”

Although the landscape may appear denuded, the oak is resilient and will live to sprout again. Daily monitoring ensured that the goats didn’t overgraze the grass underneath.

“They eat everything, but they eat the oak leaves first,” Todd says. “The trick is to move them as soon as they’ve eaten the oak, but before they start on the grass.”

Todd says another way to increase the goats’ effectiveness has been to double their efforts. “We had them graze through twice this summer. This way the oak gets defoliated twice in one growing season, in hopes of keeping it in check for longer.”

Because of the time involved, the per-acre cost of using the goats in this relatively small unit was almost equal to that of using a hydromower, but the DPLO wants to test whether goats may turn out to be more cost efficient to help control noxious weeds and invasive species.

“We’re also looking at using goats to create fuel breaks on steep slopes we can’t get heavy equipment on,” Todd says. “But we have to be careful not to use them in areas too close to the bighorn sheep herd in the Dolores River Canyon, because of the threat of disease transmission from the domestics to the wild animals.”

- Ann Bond



Scott Named New FMO

DOLORES - Scott McDermid is the new DPLO Fire Management Officer. He was previously the Helitack Supervisor and Assistant Fire Management Officer for Mesa Verde National Park.

In addition to working for the Park Service, Scott worked for the BLM on the Desert District in California and for the USFS on the Kaibab and Arapaho-Roosevelt NFs. His career has mostly been in fire management, but he has also worked in timber and recreation.

“Scott brings a wealth of experience in fire suppression and fire management, including prescribed fire,” says Steve Beverlin, DPLO Manager. “I believe his enthusiasm, energy, and attitude will be a great addition to our office.”

Scott holds a Bachelor’s degree in Forest Management Science from Colorado State University. He and wife, Julie, an archaeologist at Mesa Verde, have one daughter, Annabel, 5. Scott enjoys skiing, hiking, travel and just about anything outdoors.

“I am very excited to start my new job, get to know everyone, and get some burning done this fall,” Scott says.

- Ann Bond

AHC/CANM NEWS

Youth Summit Visits Anasazi Heritage Center

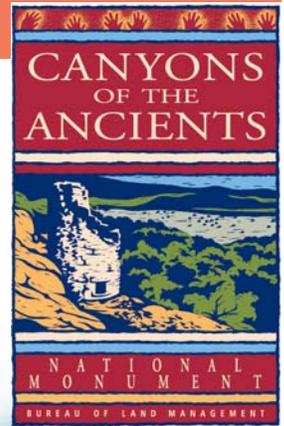
DOLORES - The Colorado *Preserve America* Youth Summit was held at the Anasazi Heritage Center (AHC) and Mesa Verde National Park this summer. Students gained hands-on experience in curation, gallery exhibits, management conflict resolution, and artifact context and clues.

The Summit is an annual event designed to introduce young people to national parks and monuments, and to promote volunteerism and conservation. It offers a forum for interaction between students, educators, preservation experts, and community leaders. The goal is to motivate students and to raise their appreciation and excitement for historic places, heritage tourism, archaeology and historic preservation.

The summit focused on how archaeology contributes to society's understanding of diverse cultures and environmental issues. Exercises had participants assist in the development of creative techniques to better connect citizens and travelers with historic places, while learning lessons to be applied in their own communities.

The students also visited Crow Canyon Archaeological Center and sites on the San Juan NF during the summit.

- Ann Bond



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