



HIGH COUNTRY INFORMANT



Serving Happy Jack & the Blue Ridge area, Pine, Strawberry, Payson, & outlying areas including: Flagstaff, Mormon Lake, & Winslow, Arizona

NEWSLETTER

Rhena Martinez, Editor

108 E. Second St. Winslow, AZ, 86047

Subscription \$25.00/yr

Volume - 231 -April 2009

Ph. (928)289-9128/587-2664

Fax (928)289-9128

highcountrvinformant@cybertrails.com



News from the Forest Service

Mogollon Rim Ranger District, Coconino National Forest

Edited on: March 21,2012

Blue Ridge Community Fire Risk Reduction Project

The Rural Communities Fuels Management Partnership (RCFMP) is preparing to offer assistance to some private property owners in the Blue Ridge area who may be interested in reducing hazardous fuels on their property. Professional expertise for fire risk assessments as well as financial assistance will be made available. RCFMP is partnering with the Coconino National Forest and the local fire service agencies in an effort to begin implementation of some of the recommendations in the Blue Ridge Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).



RCFMP has been facilitating thinning on private properties in Coconino County since 2001 (<http://redrockcountry.org/rcfmp/about.shtml>). They are adding the Blue Ridge area to their program because of the recently completed CWPP. They have a new grant available through the Coconino National Forest, and since these are federal funds an environmental assessment must be completed before they can be used, even on private property. The project proposal consists of conducting property assessments for evaluating the wildfire risk, and cutting and disposing of trees to reduce the threat. Property owners will be required to share in the cost of thinning. An estimated 50 acres will be treated with these grant funds. Other funding sources are also available to RCFMP that can be used in the area so the total treated area will be greater. Even so, the funds are limited and to ensure a degree of effectiveness over time, the project is targeting developments with substantial interface with the National Forest lands. Specifically these developments include Clear Creek Pines Unit #2, Clear Creek Pines units 3 & 7, Clear Creek Pines units 4, 5 & 6, Ponderosa Pines and Mogollon Ranch, comprising approximately 1,800 acres.

The public is invited to express support or concerns. A more detailed proposed action will be offered for public review and comment within a few weeks; however, any immediate comments based on this article are also welcome. Project information, a map and the RCFMP brochure can be found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/coconino/landmanagement/projects>. Look for the **Blue Ridge Community Fire Risk Reduction Project**.

If you would like to make any comments about this proposal, you may contact the Program Coordinator, Art Matthias, at amatthia@cals.arizona.edu. You may also contact Mr. Matthias if you would like to learn how to participate in the program.



TDS Blue Ridge Telephone Cable Project

The Coconino National Forest is analyzing a proposal from TDS Telecommunications (TDS). TDS has requested authorization to upgrade about 8.2 miles of existing buried telephone cable and associated facilities with new fiber optic cables. The need for the proposed action is to comply with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utility Services mandate of helping rural utilities expand and keep their technology up to date and helping establish new and vital communication services to rural areas of Coconino County. TDS is proposing to bury the new cable paralleling State Highway 87, Coconino County Road 316 (Pine Valley Road), Coconino County Road 625 (Blue Ridge Drive), and Forest Development Road 211 to the ADOT Work Center. Cable will also be replaced off of State Highway 87 at Ranger Road to the Blue Ridge Ranger Station Administrative Site and at Moqui Drive, and Starlight Drive. Private lands where cable and facilities are upgraded will not be included in the environmental analysis.

If you have any issues or concerns regarding proposal or would like to know more about the project please contact Steven Martinet, Project Leader, at (928) 527-3418; Fax: (928) 527-3620; Email: smartinet@fs.fed.us. Project information and a map are also found at our website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/coconino/landmanagement/projects>. Look for the **TDS Blue Ridge Telephone Cable Project**.

Scoping Notice for Cinch Hook Rock Pit Use

The Forest Service is proposing to use the available rock at Cinch Hook Pit located near the junction of State Highways 87 and 260, for road maintenance, administrative site improvements and timber sale projects. Basalt rock material will be removed from within the existing development limits using heavy equipment. Blasting, screening or crushing may be conducted if necessary. Cinch Hook will not be expanded with this project. The Mogollon Rim Ranger District is conducting environmental analysis of this proposal. If you have any questions, issues or concerns about the proposal, please contact Mark Hickcox, District Roads Enigneer at 928-477-5045 or mhickcox@fs.fed.us.



Mogollon Monster Run 100 Mile Race

The Forest Service is considering a recreational event proposal consisting of a 100 mile trail running race through the Forest, primarily along the Cabin Loop trail system as well as the General Crook Trail and the 300 road. The run starts on the Tonto National Forest on the pine Canyon Trail and ends there. The running race will include volunteers staffing aid stations along the route and there will be overnight camping, spectators, race crews and volunteers watching and supporting the race. The proposed date of the race is September 28-29, 2012. The Mogollon Rim Ranger District is conducting environmental analysis of the project. If you have any questions, issues or concerns about the proposal, please contact Suzy Lankford, District Recreation and Special Uses Specialist at 928-477-5014 or slankford@fs.fed.us.

Wood permits go on sale Friday, April 13th, but you can not cut until Saturday, April 14th.



Happy Easter!
Until next month,
Jean Gilbertson, Editor