

# **THE CHIEF'S DESK...**

## **PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS**

### **July 30, 2010**



## **Caring for The Land and Serving People...Safely**

(Toby Bakos, Tahoe NF)

### **Back-to-School Season Fee Waiver**

The weekend of August 14-15 is the Back-to-School Season where fees will be waived at standard amenity sites in cooperation with other federal agencies under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. The Fee Waiver weekends support the goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Conference and First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" initiative by actively supporting and promoting programs, projects and initiatives that encourage the use of outdoor spaces by the public. The waiver will allow people to explore our nation's forests, which offer a wide range of recreational and educational benefits.

### **R5: Region 5 to receive Secretary's award**

On Aug. 3, the Secretary of Agriculture's group honors award will be given to the "Pacific Region Fire Cost-Recovery Team" for recovering more than \$160 million in affirmative fire claims to be used to conserve and restore National Forest System lands. The ceremony will take place at the Jefferson Auditorium. Regional Forester Randy Moore, Deputy Regional Forester, Jim Pena, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Marion Matthews and current and retired employees from the Albuquerque Service Center will accept the award. They were nominated by the Office of General Counsel under the category "Ensuring our National Forests and private working lands are conserved, restored, and made more resilient to climate change, while enhancing water resources."

### **R6: Three employees receive national awards**

Region 6 employees are recipients of national awards in the fields of Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers. Rusty Thompson and Mollie Chaudet will receive their awards on Oct. 14, 2010, in Washington, D.C; and Maret Pajutee has received her award. Rusty Thompson, Trails Manager for the Okanagan-Wenatchee National Forest, has been selected for the Traditional Skills and Minimum Tool Leadership Award, part of the agency's National Wilderness Award. Mollie Chaudet, Case Management Specialist from the Deschutes National Forest, was selected for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Outstanding River Manager Award. Maret Pajutee, District Ecologist for the Deschutes National Forest, was honored by the River Management Society with the Frank Church Wild and Scenic Rivers Award.

### **R8: Public Affairs Office launches Outdoor Safety web page**

The Southern Region's Public Affairs Office has launched an [Outdoor Safety](#) web page. This page provides information on what forest visitors can do to prepare for visits to the national forests, and provides links to other sites such as NOAA's National Weather Service for hazardous weather alerts. National Forests across the region have already linked to this page. To

comment on the Outdoor Safety web page or offer suggestions for improvement, email: R8 Public Affairs@FSNOTES.

## Personnel News

**Thiery Curtis** accepted the Special Assistant to the Director, Communications position (WO-CHF) in Washington, DC. Thiery is currently the Deputy Director, Communications.

**Jill McCurdy** accepted the National Fire Training Officer position at NIFC (S&PF) in Boise, ID. Jill is currently an Aviation Training Specialist in Boise, ID.

**Amy Unthank** accepted the National Fish Program Manager position (WO-NFS) in Washington, DC. Amy is currently a Regional Fish Program Leader for R3 in Albuquerque, NM.

**Kimberly Anderson** accepted the R5-Modoc National Forest, Forest Supervisor position in Alturas, CA. Kimberly is currently Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor, Fremont-Winema National Forest, in Lakeview, OR.

**Ruth Monahan** accepted the Deputy Regional Forester position (R10) in Juneau, AK. Ruth is currently the Regional Director, Recreation, Lands & Minerals for R10 in Juneau, AK.

## In the future

No travel or speeches to report for the week of August 2-6, 2010.

People, Places and Things is compiled from input by field units and Washington Office staffs as well as from news articles, newsletters and other sources.

For in-depth coverage of Forest Service news, events and research results read [FS Today](#).