



VOLUNTEER TODAY



Dedicate Yourself to Caring for the Land and Serving the People

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/volunteering/>

No Charcoal Barbecues

No Open Fires

Los Angeles River Ranger District Volunteer Newsletter October 2007 Vol. 5 Issue 10

GREETINGS

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF THE FOREST SERVICE

“Courtesy, Respect, Unfailing In Service Excellence

At one point in every day, one of our customers will come into contact with one of us, the Princess employee, and at that moment in time, WE will be Princess Cruises. Our entire reputation as a Company will be in our hands and we will make an impression. When the impression is good, we will have spoken to our customers more loudly than all our community involvement, advertising and public relations put together.”

While on an Alaska Inland Passage cruise, I spotted the above Company statement/principle. As a consumer it was interesting observing how this principle was translated by everyone, I met from the visible (Cabin Stewards, Food Handlers etc) to the non-visible (Maintenance personnel). The Ship was kept in great shape and all the employees greeted passengers with a Good Host attitude. I know that you’re utilizing this same principle when contacting Forest Visitors and want to say THANK YOU for making a good impression.

As I look back over Fiscal Year 2007, together we’ve accomplished many Forest Service Objectives (trail maintenance, developed recreation site maintenance, historical site planning etc) and developed into a cohesive working group. I hope in Fiscal Year 2008, we’ll continue to build upon this foundation and create more opportunities.

Chantry Flat Fire Station has been turned over to Recreation. Kevin Hunt, Front Country Recreation Technician is working with Big Santa Anita Fire Safe Council in converting this facility into an office/conference center/visitor information center. If you have any ideals or wish to assist in either design or operation of this facility, please contact either Kevin Hunt or myself.

I’m updating the Calendar of Events for October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008, if you have any scheduled events or if you have any new ideals for events, please let me know.

If you’ve accumulated 100 Volunteer Service Hours in Fiscal Year (FY) 07 – October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007, you’re entitled to an Administrative Pass. Please inform your Group leader or email me a message.

Have you accumulated 500 volunteer hours since January 1, 2007? If you’ve have accumulated 500 volunteer hours, please let me know so that we can issue you an America the Beautiful – Interagency Annual Pass.

The volunteer program is open to all individuals and/or groups that are interested in assisting the Angeles NF in accomplishing natural resource management objectives.

If you’re interested in assisting us in managing your National Forest or have questions about the Volunteer Program, please contact me at 818-899-1900 ext 229 or e-mail

hokamoto@fs.fed.us

Again, THANK YOU for your dedication in providing a quality recreation experience on the Angeles National Forest.

/s/ Howard S. Okamoto

Angeles National Forest

Los Angeles River Ranger District

Recreation Officer

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transmitted**

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Los Angeles River Ranger District

Volunteer Events Calander

October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 JPL Trailbuilders Mt Lowe Hist Habitat Works San Gabriel Trailbuilders Community Hiking Club Mt Wilson Observatory Guided Tour
7 Habitat Works	8 COLUMBUS DAY	9	10	11	12	13 Wednesday Hiking Club Mt Wilson Observatory Guided Tour
14 CORBA FAT TIRE FEST	15	16	17 CTUC Monthly Mtg LARRD Monthly Volunteer Mtg	18	19	20 Habitat Works San Gabriel Trailbuilders Community Hiking Club Mt Wilson Observatory Guided Tour Tree people
21 Habitat Works	22	23	24	25	26	27 JPL Trailbuilders Make a Difference Day Mt Lowe Hist Mt Wilson Observatory Guided Tour
28	29	30	31			

HELP Wanted:

Did you always dream of being a forest naturalist?

Now's your chance! Become an Angeles National Forest Volunteer Naturalist!

Join us for an informational meeting on Saturday, October 27, 2007, at 1:00 pm at the new San Gabriel Gateway. The Gateway is on Highway 39, Azusa/San Gabriel Canyon Road, a few miles north of the 210 Foothill Freeway.

The purpose is to provide locally-trained naturalists to answer visitor questions and to lead nature walks at ANF locations.

For more information visit the webpage at <http://sgmha.org/naturalist.html>

or call Steve Segreto at the Mt Baldy Visitor Center at 909 982 2829 or email Jane Strong at info@sgmha.org.

Graffiti Hot line

County of Los Angeles Public Works

Department Graffiti Hotline:

1-800-675-4357, option 2

to report any graffiti along County maintained roads (Tujunga Canyon Roads, Angeles Forest Highway etc).

Angeles National Forest

Safety Note:

Free Videos for Emergency Preparedness

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with The Advertising Council, has made four instructional videos on emergency preparedness available on the Internet.

They are:

Older Americans Video (5 minutes)

Ready Pets Video (5 minutes)

Americans with Disabilities Video (5 minutes)

Ready America's Instructional Videos (3 minutes)

The videos are in English and Spanish, and they are all captioned. Click on the box beneath the video, on the right side, to start the captions.

You may have to download the latest Adobe Flash player software to view the captions. You can also download a transcript to print and read or share with others.

Find the videos at:

<http://www.ready.gov/america/about/instructional.html>

American Trails is now doing an on-line version of the American Trails Magazine called Trail Tracks. It's more of a trail news update than the magazine, but has similar content. If you are not now receiving this and would like to be added to our e-Newsletter—and/or would be interested in joining American Trails—list please so indicate to:

Candace Mitchell

Administrative Assistant

American Trails

P.O. Box 491797

Redding, CA 96049-1797

(530) 547-2060

Fax (530) 547-2035

Candace@americantrails.org

If you wish to get electronic copy of this newsletter, go to

<http://www.mtlowe.net/VolunteerNews.htm>

What is Make A Difference Day?

Make A Difference Day is the largest national day of helping others — a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone can participate on October 27, 2007. Each year in April, hundreds of good deeds done on Make A Difference Day are selected for honors, headlines and charitable donations.

Paul Newman, who donates all after-tax profits from sales of Newman's Own products to educational and charitable purposes, continues his support of Make A Difference Day. Mr. Newman will donate \$10,000 each to 10 selected projects. These 10 honorees, plus hundreds of local honorees, will be spotlighted in an April 2008 USA WEEKEND coinciding with National Volunteer week.

For more information go to: <http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday>

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST MEMOIR

I am nine. We are camping at Tuolumne Meadows on the Fourth of July with the obligatory watermelon chilling in the snowdrift behind the tent. Early in the morning we gather around the ranger who leads us on a nature walk. He stops at a spring bubbling through the meadow and fills a collapsible metal cup which he passes around urging us all to take a sip. Wow! My head jerks back and my eyes open wide!

Without that interpretive guide, I would have never known the taste of soda water straight out of the ground. That ranger was the legendary Yosemite ranger-naturalist, Carl Sharsmith.

Some fifty years later, I still remember the sensation of that cold, sharp, sparkling water. And today, I am the interpretive guide showing folks around Chilao, Baldy and the High Country of the Angeles. I like being the one who introduces folks to the wonders of the forest nearest to home.

I like it when a gentleman upon seeing the butterflies along the Angeles Crest says, "I've been all over the world, the Himalayas, the Alps, photographing birds, but I never knew this was here, right in my own backyard."

I like it when a birder coming from New York State sees the Mountain Quail at 6:45 am and waits until I arrive at the Visitor Center at 9 to tell me how happy he is to get this life bird.

I like it when I can show some rare plant enthusiasts a flower in Switzer Creek that hasn't been seen on the forest since 1910. The native golden-colored rainbow trout in the pools are an added bonus.

I like it that I can show a group of inner-city kids the largest and heaviest pine cone in the whole world, the cone with the wicked claws, the widow-maker, our own Coulter pine.

I like it that I can be a volunteer naturalist on the Angeles.

Jane Strong, September 2007

Hello Save the Altadena Trails (STAT) supporters.

It has been quite a long time since you have heard from us. In addition to working to preserve local trail access – we have been plagued by a series of computer related technical difficulties. We are back up and running now – with a new email address: savetrails@sbcglobal.net.

After a very successful 2006, which included legal rulings in our favor ensuring trail access to the El Prieto Fire Road and the Owen Brown gravesite, we celebrated our victories with another well attended hike to the Owen Brown gravesite to commemorate Martin Luther King Day. We were pleased to see so many of you turn out, and were thrilled with the overall support for our mission to preserve trail access.

As many of you are well aware, there are several lawsuits pending against the La Vina homeowners associations. Los Angeles County, STAT as well as private individuals have all filed law suits against the La Vina HOA to gain access to the public trails that were required as part of the agreement that allowed the developer to build the homes in the first place.

As currently scheduled, the County's case will be tried to Judge Joseph De Vanon at the Pasadena Courthouse on November 15, 2007 and the STAT vs. La Vina HOA case will be tried to Judge De Vanon on January 22, 2008.

Contributions to help defray the continued legal costs involved with this effort to restore public access to the forest are still very much needed and appreciated.

You may mail your contribution to:
SAVE THE ALTADENA TRAILS
P.O. Box 6322
Altadena, CA 91003-6322

Please note – Your donation to Save the Altadena Trails is not tax-deductible.

The Conservation Fund's National Forum on Children and Nature

In September of 2006, The Conservation Fund, best-selling author Richard Louv (Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder), and the Secretary of the Interior hosted a breakthrough dialogue on how to reconnect children with nature. Leaders from public agencies, corporations, the media, and health and environmental organizations convened to explore opportunities for action.

The major outcome of the meeting was a commitment to elevate this issue to the national agenda through a National Forum on Children and Nature. This initiative was launched on June 21, 2007 and is chaired by Governors Schweitzer of Montana, Rendell of Pennsylvania, Rell of Connecticut, and Sanford of South Carolina.

The National Forum on Children and Nature will involve governors, mayors, corporate CEOs, heads of environmental organizations, and leaders from health and education institutions, and will invest several million dollars in projects with on-the-ground tangible results that address the issue of children's isolation from nature.

The Forum will identify 20 nationally significant demonstration projects in four key areas of health, education, the built environment, and media/culture that, individually and collectively, will provide substantial steps toward improved children's health and environmental stewardship and models for future action.

Selection Process

The Forum will use a two-phased project endorsement process. In Phase I, applicants will provide a general outline of their project, including how the project will connect children with nature and what partnerships and financial support the applicant has attracted or plans to attract.

Phase I applications are due October 31, 2007. Project leaders will be notified in early 2008 if their project has been selected to provide a more detailed Phase II application. Groups chosen from this Phase II pool for Forum endorsement will receive national recognition by the National Forum on Children and Nature, along with marketing and fundraising support for their projects.

Hahamongna Annex

We are working with a planner/landscape architect and architect to help us get to the next level of detail on our master plan update and bring a plan that is further refined from what we presented in the early summer to the community and the city council. We plan to bring our final recommendations to the public and the council right after the first of the year.

As far as volunteer assistance, please contact Mike Monroe, the park maintenance supervisor at 626-744-3813 or at mmonroe@cityofpasadena.net or his maintenance foreman Nyles Gregory (he's the guy in the field) at ngregory@cityofpasadena.net.

**Rosa Laveaga
Landscape Architect No. 3494
Arroyo Seco Project Supervisor
Department of Public Works - Parks & Natural Resources Division
City of Pasadena**

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION (ANFFLA)

<http://www.anffla.org>

<http://www.angeleslookouts.org>

Slide Mtn. Fire Lookout

Hikers/Backpackers wanted; hike 2.5 miles spend the day in one of the most beautiful Fire Lookouts. Quite, peaceful and a view that's out of this world.

Check Website web.mac.com/slide.mtn

More information contact John Cordi 562-498-9151 or slide.mtn@mac.com

Vetter Mtn Fire Lookout

Kermit Eller kermiteller@dslextreme.com

Angeles Mountain Bikers and Trailkeepers

Mark Gage mrgy33@hotmail.com

Hikers and Bikers working together on trails. We work on the trails almost every Saturday. Our focus trails are Lower Sam Merrill and Castle Canyon.

ANGELES MOUNTAIN BIKE PATROL

(AMBP) mmcguirepools@cs.com

Our mission is to provide educational and a responsible image to all trail users. To encourage rider's to obey forest regulations and working to preserve and protect trails. A.M.B.P is here to serve and inform the public.

Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group (ACTRWG)

www.altadenatrails.org 626-797-7243

"Group has begun discussion on long-term Altadena trail stewardship & oversight role." If interested attend meeting on 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm at Altadena Community Center.

Altadena Foothills Conservancy

Established to preserve and restore natural open spaces and associated trails and historic structures in the environs of Altadena.

www.altadenafoothills.org

nsteele@altadenafoothills.org

Alpine Training Services

<http://www.atsenviroaction.com>

E.A.D. is a new program from Alpine Training Services representing our "One Earth" philosophy -- that being there is only One Earth for us to live on, grow on, and make a future on. To learn more about Alpine Training Services and the programs we offer including our full course curriculums for canyoneering, rock climbing, kayaking, backpacking, & mountaineering, please visit our website at www.alpinets.com.

The Audubon Center at Debs Park

http://www.audubon-ca.org/debs_park.htm

(323) 221-2255

The Audubon Center is a unique urban nature center, envisioned by Audubon as a model to serve a new demographic of nature lovers.

Located along the historic Arroyo Seco Parkway (110 Freeway) between downtown Los Angeles and City of Pasadena, in Ernest E. Debs Regional Park.

Hours: Wed. thru Sun. 9am-5pm

AC 100

<http://www.ac100.com/>

BEAR CANYON TRAIL CREW

(BCTC) <http://www.outdoorsclub.org/>

Richard 626-285-0962

• Oct 10, 24

Come on out and enjoy a mid-week hike up the Chantry Flats Fire Road starting @ 5:45pm. The hike is approximately 7 miles round trip with about a 1,400' gain in elevation.



Mark Gage showing how it is done!

Join One Today

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

Beyond Basecamp

Frank Gallegos frank@beyondbasecamp.com

Needs volunteers to help in the maintenance of Valley Forge, West Fork and Devore Trail Camps

Boy Scouts of America

The High Adventure Team – Los Angeles Area Council provides training opportunities for all interested individuals. For more information: www.boyscoutsla.org click H.A.T.

Big Santa Anita Firesafe Council

cafiresafe@sbcglobal.net

Looking for volunteers to assist in fuel hazard reduction, trail maintenance and visitor information in the Big Santa Anita Canyon.

California Trail Users Coalition (CTUC)

Meeting - 5 p.m. meeting (3rd Wednesday)

To provide a forum for all trail users to discuss trail related issues, problems and alternative solutions; to assist in the planning, development, maintenance and patrolling of trails to enforce rules of the road; and to develop and maintain programs designed to educate users on proper use of trails and trail etiquette.

Looking for interested hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians to be a part of this Coalition. If interested come to our next meeting or check out www.ctuc.info.

High Country Riders

Forest wide equestrian volunteer group that patrols trails and can pack equipment, supplies etc to your worksite.

Jonathan Schultz 951-830-3400
maujds@earthlink.net

Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center

www.haramokngna.org
626-445-8975

Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists

Association (CORBA)

<http://www.corbambt.com>

- Oct 13 COSCA Trail work day and barbecue
- Oct 14 CORBA's Fat Tire Fest

Join us for the 20th annual Fat Tire Fest! This year will be bigger than ever! By popular demand the log pull contest will be back! There will also be a Hill Climb contest and of course the Poker Ride! The Fat Tire Fest is CORBA's biggest event of the year and celebrates its 20th Anniversary. Don't miss it! Registration on line at the CORBA store or mail in the registration form.

HABITAT WORKS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Kim Clark 818-353-4653

Tom Persons 310-412-4986

Get details on our calendar page:

<http://www.habitatwork.org/calendar.htm>

- Oct 6/7

Piru Creek and Pinyon Pine Conservation
Lockwood Valley, Los Padres NF

- Oct . 20/21

San Emigdio Creek Tamarisk Hike
The Wind Wolves Preserve

Community Hiking Club

24639 Arch Street

Newhall, CA 91321

661-607-0339

Dianne Erskine Hellrigel

zuliebear@aol.com

communityhikingclub.org

Every Saturday, Placerita Nature Center leads Family Nature Walks at 11 AM and Animal Presentations at 1 PM.

www.placerita.org

Join One Today VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

JPL TRAILBUILDERS

<http://www.jplreclubs.caltech.edu/hiking/>

Kathie Reilly 818-354-8321 (JPL)

626-798-7256 (home)

Jack Russell 562-861-3187

·Oct 6, Oct 27

Again, where we work depends upon how hot the weather is. We can continue working the Colby Canyon Trail or go higher up and work Mt Lowe East or West.

We would like to extend our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Gary Hilliard, one of the Forest Service volunteers who was in a serious motorcycle accident. He organizes the 50-mile Mt Disappointment foot race, and is very appreciative of our trail work in the area. Thank you Gary, for the beautiful plaque you made to thank us.

Mt Disappointment 50K/50M

www.mtdisappointment50k.com

Gary Hilliard and/or Gabor Kozinc

Email: ghilliard@ladpw.org or

gary@mtdisappointment50k.com

On Sunday August 19, our Race Director Gary Hilliard, was involved in a motorcycle accident. For the latest update goto <http://garyhilliard.blogspot.com/>

We ask that you keep Gary and his wife Pam in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this difficult ordeal.

SCENIC MT. LOWE RAILWAY

<http://www.mtlowe.net>

Working on an Interpretative Design Plan for Mt Lowe – Echo Mountain Historic Mining Tour. Brian Marcroft 562-868-8919

Emworks@verizon.net

Outward Bound Adventures (OBA)

<http://www.obainc.org> On September 1, 2007, Outward Bound officially introduced its newest Urban Center, Los Angeles Outward Bound.

Formerly known as Outward Bound Adventures, a separate entity, this Urban Center will continue to offer experiential learning opportunities to the Los Angeles community.

A new website with a complete calendar of events is currently under construction. In the meantime, feel free to contact LAOB directly for up-to-date program information.

Phone: 626-564-0844

E-mail: obainc.sbcglobal.net

Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA)

<http://WWW.PCTA.ORG>

“Mission of the PCTA is to protect, preserve, promote the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail as to reflect its worldclass significance for the enjoyment, education and adventure of hikers equestrians.

For additional information: ·

Suzanne Wilson ‘Fannypack’

Regional Representative Projects on SBNF, ANF, and BLM.

951-492-9836 swilson@pcta@org

SAN GABRIEL TRAILBUILDERS

<http://www.sgmtrailbuilders.org/>

<http://www.crystallake.name/>

Ben White bwootenwhite@hotmail.com

626-303-1078

We are continuing to work on river access trails in the North and East Forks of the San Gabriel River. We will also continue restoring trails in the Crystal Lake basin. We work on the first, third, and fifth, Saturday of each month.

Details as to what to bring are on our website at :
<http://www.sgmtrailbuilders.org/volunteer.html>

Monrovia Canyon Park

http://ci.monrovia.ca.us/city_hall/public_works/canyon_park/canyon_park.htm

Need volunteers and trail maintenance work on Ben Overturff and Waterfall Trails 626-256-8282

VOLUNTEER NEWS

TreePeople <http://treepeople.org/>

•Oct 20 Angeles National Forest

Join TreePeople as we head back to the mountains for this important planting. We will water trees planted last season and plant native seedlings to sustain our local watersheds. This is a wonderful trip to the forests near L.A. that sustain us! For more information and to register contact Kristina Clark.

For more information

Kristina Clark Telephone (818) 623-4846

Email kclark@treepeople.org

Wednesday Hiking and Granada Club

• OCT 13 outing

We're Korean-Americans, who love working in the National Forest. We work the 2nd Saturday of each month on maintaining the Sunset Ridge Trail, 12W18.

If you would like to join us or have any questions, please contact Ted Kim at infocus804@yahoo.com

Mt. Wilson Observatory

<http://www.mwoa.org/tour.html>

The Observatory grounds and Skyline Park are open to the public seven days a week from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm during the months of April through November, although special conditions may sometimes cause closures or restrict access. See our website for special announcements.

Mount Wilson Observatory Association (MWOA)

PO Box 70076

Pasadena, CA 91117-7076

Is a volunteer organization supporting the Mount Wilson Observatory with membership is open to all interested persons.

William S Hart UHSD of Santa Clarita ANF Crew 5130

What's happening at William S Hart UHSD:

Work will continue on an adopted 8.7mile stretch of the PCT from the Indian Canyon Trailhead (Soledad Canyon) to North Fork Station on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays for the duration of the fall.

In its first six months of operation, this crew of six local high school students, sponsored by the District's Career Visions Work Training Program, has been able to successfully survey and record data for more than 17,000 ft of tread, while clearing more than 3.0 miles. For more information on how you can help, contact:

Kevin Sarkissian at ksarkiss@hartdistrict.org

WELCOME TWO NEW VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Blight Busters Trail Crew

Tired of seeing Graffiti on your favorite trails? Then you should take action and join Danny in graffiti removal.

Danny Treadway

E-MAIL : dayhiker86@yahoo.com

Graffiti Removal & Trail Clean Up.

For Information go to www.outdoorsclub.org.

Equestrian Trails, Inc.

A non-profit organization dedicated to the Acquisition and Preservation of Trails, Good Horsemanship, and Equine Legislation.

For event information and helpful tips for horse owners.

www.etinnational.com.

Give Condors a real chance at recovery!

Give Condors a real chance at recovery!

Tell Fish & Game commissioners to ban lead ammunition in Condor country.

California Condor recovery is a story of great successes and remaining challenges. One of the world's rarest and most imperiled birds, the California Condor was rescued from the brink of extinction by captive breeding and release. Today just 279 condors exist including 70 wild birds in California. Yet despite millions of dollars spent and the herculean efforts of many people, the condor remains imperiled. A leading threat to condor recovery is lead poisoning from ingestion of ammunition. Since 1992, at least 10 California Condors are known to have died from lead poisoning with more suspected. And since 1997, 30 birds have required expensive medical treatment to remove lead from the blood. The CA Fish & Game Commission has proposed an amendment to hunting regulations to ban lead ammunition in Condor Country in an effort to aid condor recovery. Encourage the commissioners to vote in favor of the ban!

Go here for more information: http://www.audubon-ca.org/California_Condor.html

Bill to Protect Condors from Lead Ammunition Lands on Governor's Desk (Sept 5, 2007)
Today following a major vote by the California Senate, the legislature has now sent AB 821 by Assemblyman Pedro Nava, legislation banning the use of lead-based ammunition in California condor habitat, to the Governor for signature. The legislation would protect the California condor population from lead poisoning, which is contracted by ingesting bullet fragments left in carcasses and gut piles. The Governor has until October 14th to sign or veto the legislation. Audubon California is calling on Governor Schwarzenegger to sign AB 821.

General Information "THE WAG BAG"

New York Times: On Wednesday, September 5, the New York Times published an article written by Felicity Barringer entitled *No more privies, so hikers add a carry on*. The highest outhouse in the continental United States is no more.

High-altitude sanitation is too hazardous a business. Helicopters must make regular journeys up the steep-walled canyons in tricky winds while rangers in hazmat suits wait below to tie 250-pound bags or barrels of waste onto a long line dangling below the aircraft. So from the granite immensity of Mount Whitney in California to Mount Rainier in Washington to Zion National Park in Utah, a new wilderness ethic is beginning to take hold: You can take it with you. In fact, you must. The privy, which sat about 14,494 feet above sea level, and two other outhouses here in the Inyo National Forest, the last on the trail, have been removed within the last year. The 19,000 or so hikers who pick up Forest Service permits each year to hike the Whitney Trail are given double-sealed sanitation kits and told how to use them, just as they are told how to keep their food from the bears along the way, and how to find shelter when lightning storms rake the ridges. The kits, the most popular model is known as a Wagbag, are becoming a fixture of camping gear. On high western trails, Wagbag is now as familiar a term as gorp (a high-energy mix of nuts, seeds, dry fruit and chocolate) or switchback (a hairpin turn in the trail).





Chief Abigail R. Kimbell: Today, 9/7/07 I will give a speech to the Society of Environmental Journalists in Stanford, California outlining new areas of focus for the Forest Service which I believe will benefit both the lands we manage and the public we serve. The three areas are climate change, water, and connecting kids with nature. I am excited to share my thoughts and goals for the Forest Service. I look forward to the Agency applying our unique expertise, experiences and successes to these focus areas.

Climate Change

I propose a national effort to reach two forest-related goals. This would not be just a Forest Service effort, but a concerted national effort based on public/private partnerships:

- The first goal would be to sustain and strengthen the role of America's forests as a net carbon sink. All forests, public and private, currently take up enough carbon from the atmosphere to offset about 10 percent of America's carbon emissions. I propose a national effort to double that amount by 2020.
- The second goal would be to increase the amount of America's energy that comes from forests. Our scientists tell us that with the technologies now becoming available, we could replace as much as 15 percent of our current gasoline consumption with ethanol from wood—and not just any wood, but wood that is not now being used for other purposes and in some cases being burned. I propose that we set that as a national goal as well.

These are ambitious goals, and they would take a concerted national effort to reach. But through the energy, ingenuity, and commitment of the American people, I believe that these goals are achievable.

Water Issues

As I said, climate change is linked to water—to declining snowpacks, retreating glaciers, and changing patterns of precipitation and runoff. The evidence shows that we are entering a period of water scarcity not seen in our previous history. This is another concern I have heard again and again around the country: dwindling supplies of pure, clean water.

We can use forests to protect water supplies. Spongy forest soils are ideal for holding, filtering, and slowly releasing water. In fact, more than half of America's surface water originates on forestland, even though forests cover just a third of our land area. In addition, forests cool and purify the water they release.

Conservationists have long understood the connection between forests and water. The National Forest System was created in part for "securing favorable conditions of water flows," as it says in the foundational legislation from 1897. The national forests protect headwaters in many states, like here in California. Eighteen percent of the nation's water supply originates on national forest land, even though the National Forest System covers just eight percent of our land area. (continued on page 12)

Kids in the Woods

As I have listened to people around the country talk about climate change and drought, I have been struck by the number of times they have expressed concern about the kind of future we are creating for our children and how well the next generation understands what is happening. Our children need to understand how much they depend on forests, wherever they live—and 80 percent of our population lives in urban environments. Children need to know how much pleasure there is to be had in forests.

For generations, American children grew up with this knowledge, whether we knew it or not at the time. Children gained this knowledge in their daily lives, whether as part of their outdoor chores or as part of their outdoor play. Through having the outdoors in their daily lives, they saw the connection of natural resources to their homes and communities. They learned that forests provide clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, hunting, fishing, and recreation opportunities, building materials, and even jobs. Such experiences and insights spawned the great conservation movements that have safeguarded the natural treasures for which America is justly renowned.

That might be changing. Children no longer have so many opportunities for outdoor activities away from supervised playgrounds and playing fields. And they have many more opportunities for indoor distractions through electronic gadgetry and imagery. Of course, children do learn something about the natural world through electronic media, but nothing can replace experience that is direct and personal. My concern is that a whole generation of children might be growing up estranged from nature in a way they never were before.

Our most important resource in this country is not forests, vital as they are. It is not water, although life itself would cease to exist without it. It is people. The challenges of climate change and looming water shortages will not be resolved in a few years. It will take generations. Today's children—and theirs—will need to be able to take the baton and finish the race. For that, they will need a full understanding of why forests are so valuable, along with a strong land ethic. It is our imperative to give them both.

The Forest Service has a tremendous number of ongoing activities to reach children—you've all heard of Smokey Bear, for example. One of the latest examples of our commitment to reach children is a program we call "More Kids in the Woods." Under the program, the Forest Service is working with partners on dozens of projects around the country to get kids away from the TV, away from the computer, away from their PlayStations and out into the forest—face to face with nature, up close and personal. There has been a tremendous response to this program around the country, and it works.

In this connection, I will issue a challenge to everyone here—to everyone anywhere who cares about the future of forests or of children: This year, I challenge you to take at least one child into the woods. Show them what it was that caught your imagination, made you want to explore, what you loved about the woods. Let them experience the same wonder and awe that you did.

The Forest Service will be there with you. We will work with partners to ensure that every child in America has the opportunity, in one way or another, to personally experience the Great Outdoors, whether it is in a remote mountain wilderness or in a spot of nature created and protected in the heart of our cities. This will be a tremendous undertaking involving tens or even hundreds of millions of children. In pursuing this goal, above all others, we will need your help—and the help of many, many more.

The Angeles National Forest can become the showcase for the Chief's three areas of focus since we're located near the epicenter. As we get more information on the Chief's thoughts and goals for these three areas, your involvement in accomplishing these goals will be greatly appreciated.

The Great World Wide Star Count

Schoolchildren, families, and citizen scientists around the world will gaze skyward after dark from October 1 to 15, looking for specific constellations and then sharing their observations through the Internet. The initiative, called the Great World Wide Star Count, will help scientists map light pollution globally while educating participants about the stars.

The event, which is free and open to everyone who wants to participate, is organized by the Windows to the Universe project at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), in conjunction with planetariums and scientific societies across the country and abroad. Funding is provided by the National Science Foundation.

“This is an important event that brings families together to enjoy the night skies and become involved in science,” says Dennis Ward of UCAR’s Office of Education and Outreach, who is one of the event coordinators. “It also raises awareness about the impact of artificial lighting on our ability to see the stars.”

Participants in the Northern Hemisphere will look for the constellation Cygnus (the Swan), while those in the Southern Hemisphere will look for Sagittarius (the Archer). They will then match their observations with magnitude charts downloaded from the Great World Wide Star Count Web site (<http://www.windows.ucar.edu/starcount>). This Web site also contains more information about the event, including instructions for finding the constellations, and links to background information about astronomy on UCAR’s “Windows to the Universe” Web site.

Participants in overcast areas who cannot see stars will be able to input data about cloud conditions instead. Thousands of observers in dozens of countries are expected to take part. Participants may make observations outside their homes or go to less developed areas where more stars are visible.

Bright outdoor lighting at night is a growing problem for astronomical observing programs around the world. By searching for the same constellations, participants in the Great World Wide Star Count will be able to compare their observations with what others see, giving them a sense of how star visibility varies from place to place. The observers will also learn more about the economic and geographic factors that control the light pollution in their communities and around the world.

“Without even being aware of it, many of us have lost the ability to see many stars at night,” Ward says. “The Great World Wide Star Count will help raise awareness of the importance and the beauty of the night skies.”

The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research is a consortium of 70 universities offering Ph.D.s in the atmospheric and related sciences. UCAR manages the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and the UCAR Office of Programs (UOP).

For details on how to participate in the Great World Wide Star Count, go to the Web site <http://www.windows.ucar.edu/starcount>.

**Los Angeles River Ranger District
12371 North Little Tujunga Canyon Road
San Fernando, CA 91342**

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter on May 2, 2007 email: info@tundracomics.com



Volunteer Today

Send this in Right Away to

**Howard S. Okamoto—12371 N. Little Tujunga Canyon Rd
San Fernando, CA 91342**

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Interests

Indicate what you would like to do. Circle area or enter your interests.

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Research-Librarian / Office Clerical / Tour guide/ Fire Lookout/

Conservation Education

Other: _____