

VOLUNTEER TODAY

Dedicate Yourself to Caring for the Land and Serving the People

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

Los Angeles River Ranger District Volunteer Newsletter August 2009

GREETINGS

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF THE FOREST SERVICE

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The mission of the Forest Service is guided by the fundamental principle of providing the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run and is characterized by the slogan: Caring for the Land and Serving People. Los Angeles Conservation Corp, Outward Bound Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corp since mid- April have completed trail maintenance on the following trails: Oak Springs 14W10, Doc Larson 14W17, Strawberry 12W05, Colby Canyon 12W23, portions of the Silver Moccasin and Gabrielino NRT, East Fork 8W13 and have relocated to other trails. If you happen to encounter these crews, please show your appreciation.

Folks we are looking for employees to staff the booth at the Antelope Valley Fair in Lancaster CA. The dates are Aug 20 - Aug 30, 2009. The times that were need folks to help out is Aug 24th thru Aug 28th. Remember the LA County Fair is just around the corner. If interested in assisting, please let me know and I'll put you in contact. I invite you to [view the Summer 2009 digital issue of the American Trails Magazine!](http://www.americantrails.org/trailtracks/index.html) (<http://www.americantrails.org/trailtracks/index.html>)

Fire Danger Level on the Angeles National Forest was raised from "High" to "Very High," on Sunday, July 12, 2009. *Open wood and charcoal fires will only be permitted in developed campgrounds and picnic areas where fire rings and grills are provided. Gas and propane powered stoves and grills are permitted in backcountry areas with a valid California Campfire Permit. Campfire permits are available free of charge at all U.S. Forest Service offices and most visitor centers and fire stations.*

Welcome to the Forest Service: A Guide for Volunteers, (Tech. Rep. 0967-2813-MTDC) is available to all volunteers. This guide will provide you with a brief history of the Forest Service, an overview of the volunteer program, and some information you will need to work safely and productively for the agency. If you want a copy, please contact either your Group leader or myself.

Have you accumulated 500 volunteer hours since January 1, 2007? If you have, please contact me so that you can receive your America the Beautiful – 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

hokamoto@fs.fed.us

/s/ Howard S. Okamoto
Angeles National Forest
Los Angeles River Ranger District
Recreation Officer

August
Calendar
..... pg 2

Volunteer
Group News
.....pg 3 – 7

GET
Your
SMOKEY
ON !!
.....pg 8

Zombie
Squad
.....pg 9

The Northwest
Service Academy
.....pg 10

Forest Service Bi-
monthly
volunteer
Meeting
.....pg 10

Greetings from
Tom Tidwell
.....pg 11

Forgive your
enemies, but
never forget
their names.
**John F.
Kennedy**

Los Angeles River Ranger District

Aug 2009 Volunteer Events Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>If you wish to get a electronic copy of this Newsletter, go to: http://www.mtlowe.net/VolunteerNews.htm</p>						<p>1 San Gabriel Trailbuilders Community Hiking Club Mt Wilson Observatory Guided Tour</p>
2	3	<p>4 National Night Out</p>	5	6	7	<p>8 Haramokngna Mt Disappointment 50K Run Wednesday Hiking Club Mt Wilson Observatory Guided Tour Community Hiking Club City of Glendale</p>
9	10	11	12	13	14	<p>15 JPL Trailbuilders Community Hiking Club Mt Wilson Observatory Guided Tour</p>
16	17	18	<p>19 CTUC Monthly Mtg</p>	<p>10 SCVTAC Mtg City of Glendale</p>	21	<p>22 Mt Wilson Observatory Guided Tour Community Hiking Club City of Glendale</p>
<p>23 MWOA Free Lecture</p>	24	<p>25 Hahamongna Watershed PAC</p>	26	27	28	<p>29 Harmokngna AC100 Trail Work Community Hiking Club LAC BSA Trail Boss Training</p>
30	31	<p>http://twitter.com/AngelesNF</p> <p>Site will be used for Fire Information purposes and other announcements, but we'd like to promote as many of our volunteers groups as we can. We haven't even done an official roll-out of our Twitter page and we already have 200 "followers." Yikes.</p>				

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

AC100 TRAIL VOLUNTEERS

<http://www.ac100.com>

- Aug 29th Trail Work
- Aug 30th Training Run

Our required trail work draws around 30 or more AC100 runners for the last 3 workdays, Manzanita Ridge to Hoegees, Idlehour West Side and Saturday's Idlehour East Side had 27 runner/workers. The poison oak resistant group went ahead 1st down to the trail camp area to clean the P.O. and fix trail. The 2nd group went up and over the hill to clean out the rubber belted water bars and clean trail and brush. The last group cleaned tread from the ckpoint up the trail very nicely.

Contact:

Hal Winton AC100 Co-RD Volunteer 12
winton4Jesus@juno.com

Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group (ACTRWG)

www.altadenatrails.org 626-797-7243

Angeles Mountain Bikers and Trail Keepers

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

Angeles Mountain bike Patrol

AFMBP@hotmail.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.P is here to serve and inform the public.

Antelope Valley Conservancy

www.avconservancy.org

OFFICE PHONE (661) 943-9000

avconservancy@yahoo.com

Audubon Center at Debs Park

http://www.ca.audubon.org/debs_park.php

(323) 221-2255

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION (ANFFLA)

<http://www.anffla.org>

Welcome to the Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association, a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to restoring, maintaining and staffing to lookouts on the Angeles National Forest.

Be a Lookout!

It's probably easier then you realize to become an active Fire Lookout with the ANFFLA. It just takes a few classes training (which are quite fun!) and the desire to spend some time in the Angeles National Forest

BEYOND BASECAMP

Beyondbasecamp.com

323 896-0123

There's always much to be done at our local mountains adopted back-country trail camps. We're always in need of volunteers to help with camp projects or trail maintenance.

BEAR CANYON TRAIL CREW (BCTC)

Richard Nyerges nyerges@sbcglobal.net
626-285-0962

Big Santa Anita Firesafe Council

cafiresafe@sbcglobal.net

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

Blight Busters Trail Crew

Danny Treadway dayhiker86@yahoo.com
Graffiti Removal & Trail Clean Up.

Boy Scouts of America

Los Angeles Area Council

<http://www.laac-hat.com/>

Concerned Of-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA)

Telephone (818) 773-3555

<http://www.corbamt.com/cgi-bin/calendar.pl>

California Trail Users Coalition (CTUC)

www.ctuc.info

- Aug 19th Meeting

The summer has arrived as have all the festivities and nature lovers to our National Forest. Chantry Flat has been very busy of late and with the crowds come various challenges that we have either witnessed first hand or heard through one of our colleagues reports. May and June have had attendance numbers of 1600+ people on a weekly basis. That's 536 rolls of toilet paper (single ply of course), 280 bags of trash and 48 bags of recyclable materials collected.

With the crowds, comes the need for patience and perseverance. All of the volunteers at Chantry contribute in many ways. In just the last two months, the team has worked 557 hours. There have been numerous public assists, 13 rescues, over 250 noncompliance notices written, equaling \$1250 .00 in revenue. Tina alone has probably sold 320 passes by directing the public to the pack station to purchase their pass before going on a hike, again bringing in \$1600.00 in revenue.

The volunteers at Chantry work very well together. They have developed their skills through training provided in the classroom and on the job training under the guidance of Kevin Hunt.

The volunteers practice smooth public service habits and respond to the many duties that are required. Together, they have cleaned graffiti off of many a beautiful boulder and picked up trash. With a kind word, a smile or the use of our authority, we can go a long way on a very HOT day.

Always at the ready, the team of volunteers has hiked 85 miles collectively over the months of May & June, provided directions to hundreds of visitors and have helped keep people safe on the trails. The presence of the volunteers on the weekend has added to the peaceful and lawful experience our visitors expect in our National Forest.

Maintenance duties are not always the fun part of the job but necessary and done without complaint. The bathroom facility at Chantry Flat, Roberts, Spruce Grove, and Hoegees campground are kept clean and stocked constantly.

Special Recognition is deserved by two of our very dedicated volunteers. Chris Kasten because of his long standing interest in the National Forest, his value to the volunteer program and the attention he provides on a weekly basis to Spruce Grove is unmatched. He Hikes in 4.0 miles every week. He provides campers a great experience and is certain to make sure that all of the visitors are fire safety compliant. And Tina Chamley because over the past fifteen years she has given almost every weekend of her time to the needs at Chantry. Tina is the welcome committee that our visitors have come to recognize and her ability to direct the public and provide them with accurate and vital information makes for a safe and successful outdoor experience.

The loyalty and commitment of this group of people is to be credited. These are people who can be counted on. And they count on one another's dedication in order to get the work done. They keep tight schedules, they arrive early, divvy- up the duties and communicate the needs of the day as well as report the results.

Chantry Flat Volunteers: Jerry Baker, Tina Chamley, Don Davidson, Kelly Davidson, Dave Golliugh, Jon Golliugh, Mark Heltsley, and Chris Kasten

City of Glendale

Tree Watering and Maintenance

- Aug 8th
- Aug 22nd

Please enjoy the summer months and plan to visit Glendale's parks, trails and open space. For a full listing of Summer activities check out our website at:

www.parks.ci.glendale.ca.us

Jeff Weinstein

Trails and Open Space Specialist

818-548-2000

jweinstein@ci.glendale.ca.us

Community Hiking Club

661-259-2743

Dianne Erskine Hellrigel email: zuliebear@aol.com

•Aug 8th Bear Divide to Wilson Saddle and back.

•Aug 15th -Ray Sauvajot will visit us at Placerita Nature Center and teach us all about Mountain Lions! You will love Ray and his Lion PPT. We will follow the presentation with a hike through the Canyon Trail to the Waterfall. 5 mi RT with little to no gain. Bring lots of water and lunch.

(CONT TO P5)

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

Community Hiking Club

(CONT FROM P4)

- Aug 22nd - Chantry Flats- We'll hike to 50' Sturtevant Falls near Sierra Madre.
- Aug 29th - Gould Mesa to Oakwilde via the Arroyo Seco.

Stewardship schedule:

- Aug 2nd Trail work -Placerita Nature Center
- Aug 16th Trail work -Placerita Nature Center
- Aug 30th Micro-Trash Clean Up-Bear Divide

Equestrian Trails, Inc.

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

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.

HABITATWORK.ORG

Kim Clark or Tom Persons

818-353-4653

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

Have a great summer.

Check our calendar in September for fall projects.

Kim and Tom

HabitatWork.org

Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee

<http://cityofpasadena.org/publicworks/PNR/ArroyoSeco/annex.asp>

- Aug 25th at 6pm

Victory Park, 2575 Paloma St. ,Pasadena, CA

Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center

www.haramokngna.org

- Aug 8th early viewing of Perseid meteor shower possible astronomy night
- Aug 29th first quarter moon-possible astronomy night

Kat at 310-455-1588,

katcalls@aol.com

JAM

Time2JAM.com Josh@JoshNoland.com

818-521-3634

Calling all volunteers to help maintain

Gould Mesa Trail Camp.

Matt Maxon matt@mattmaxon.com

"Hike to Mt Lukens spend a few hours working on Stone Cyn Trail. Most every Thursday ...90° + temps cancels

Don't want to hike up there? Other work days can be arranged!

High Country Riders

On Saturday July 11th, Jonathan Schultz & Dave Ewbank packed Four horses with 160 lbs each up East Fork From Heaton Flats 1 ½ mile to the work location for an Eagle Scout project. We had to pack twice for the second time back up was all the food and water for the scouts. Contact us if you want to help or if you need packing work for your work project.

Jonathan Schultz

High Country Riders

Forest wide equestrian volunteer group that patrols trails and can pack Trash, Rubbish, Equipment, Material and Supplies etc... to your Trail or worksite.

Glen Foster 760-868-8313

or 760-508-0344

second contact is

Dave Ewbanks 909-489-5470

JPL TRAILBUILDERS

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

Kathie Reilly 818-354-8321 (JPL)

626-798-7256 (home)

Jack Russell 562-861-3187

- Aug 15th Outing

We will continue work on either the Mt Lowe West, Mt Lowe East or Colby Canyon Trails depending upon road, and tunnel conditions. The maintenance work consists of cutting back brush and trail widening.

Kathie

Monrovia Canyon Park

626-256-8282.

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/index.cfm/0/Canyon-Park-1.cfm>

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer call Kathleen at

Mt Disappointment 50K/50M

www.mtdisappointment50k.com

Gary Hilliard, Director

gary@mtdisappointment50k.com

- Aug 8th THE RACE!

Mt. Wilson Observatory Association

<http://www.mwoa.org>

PO Box 70076 , Pasadena,
CA 91117-7076

- Guided walking tours every Saturday and Sunday afternoon meet at the Pavilion at 1:00pm.

Mount Wilson Observatory is visited by thousands of people each year, and the Observatory expects to expand its tour program during 2009. To do so, we need the help of volunteers to staff these tours and to represent Mount Wilson to the visiting public. We are actively recruiting new candidates for docent training.

Docents go through an in-depth training process, conducted by the Mount Wilson Observatory Association, to provide them with the information they need to describe the historic and scientific highlights of the Observatory. This is followed by a period of assisting experienced docents prior to taking on primary responsibility for tours. We can fit your touring assignments to your availability restrictions.

San Bernardino National Forest Assoc. Partner For Conservation, Education and Recreation

www.sbnfa.org Get Involved!

Volunteering is a strong part of our tradition at the National Forest Association. Through our more than 1,000 volunteers we serve more than 250,000 visitors annually. We couldn't do what we do without them. Forest Association staff regards their volunteer peers as fellow workers and we are eager to provide you with appropriate training to make your volunteer activities at the National Forest Association rewarding. As part of the Forest Association volunteer force, you will be effectively and creatively assisting staff in development of the programs and activities through meaningful assignments

We welcome suggestions regarding new volunteer assignments. If you have a special ability or expertise that you would like to share with us, please complete the form at <http://www.sbnfa.org/getinvolved.php> and click on submit. Every effort will be made to place you in an area that matches your interest and utilizes your special creative talents

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

Outward Bound – Los Angeles

<http://www.obainc.org>

The mission of Outward Bound Los Angeles is to provide nature-based education that promotes positive self-development, environmental responsibility, and outdoor career exposure for low income, at-risk, and urban youth.

Phone: 626-564-0844

E-mail: obainc.sbcglobal.net

Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA)

WWW.PCTA.org

From desert to glacier-flanked mountain, meadow to forest, the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) symbolizes everything there is to love – and protect - in the Western United States. Join us as we celebrate, enjoy and safeguard this unique American treasure.

SCENIC MT. LOWE RAILWAY

<http://www.mtlowe.net>

Brian Marcroft 562-868-8919

Emworks@verizon.net

TreePeople <http://treepeople.org/>

Founded in 1973 by teenagers, TreePeople staff and volunteers continue to plant trees and restore the pollution-damaged mountains of Southern California. TreePeople has pioneered more than 200 tree-planting groups worldwide, and as one of the largest environmental educators in the U.S., TreePeople has initiated numerous large-scale public and youth education programs.

The result: millions of people caring for their local environment by planting trees, recycling and preventing the pollution of stormwater.

General Information
12601 Mulholland Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Telephone (818) 753-4600

Santa Clarita Valley Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting on a Quarterly basis at
Carvalho Sports Complex Activity Center.

SAN GABRIEL TRAILBUILDERS

<http://www.sgmtrailbuilders.org>

<http://www.crystallake.name>

Ben White bwootenwhite@hotmail.com

626-303-1078

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

If you have ever hiked East Fork Trail along the river toward the famous “Bridge to Nowhere” you have probably walked across a rickety old wooden foot bridge that spanned Laurel Gulch, a twisted “Indiana Jones” kind of bridge that might have made you pause a moment to ponder whether the bridge was actually safe or not.

Well, there's a new wooden bridge spanning Laurel Gulch.

October 25th 2008, the wooden beams, planks and posts that were to be used for the bridge were unpacked and assembled at the Rincon Fire Station by the San Gabriel Mountains Trailbuilders. April 18, 2009, Trailbuilders worked on excavating the ground where the concrete bridge footings would eventually be built. Rock was broken up with picks, a rock drill, and a lot of hard, hot, sweaty work until the lower footing was almost completed with perhaps half of the work done on the upper footing.

May 9th, was a day back at Rincon and the Trailbuilders disassembled the bridge, packaging up each piece until there were two transportable sections of approximately reasonable weights. Bolts and other hardware were carefully packaged along with the tools and equipment that would be needed to reassemble the bridge after the helicopter carried the bridge sections from Rincon to the Gulch. San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps and the Trailbuilders teamed up with Boy Scouts, Forest Service personnel and other volunteers to reassemble the bridge and to work on the approaches to the bridge. A rock wall was built for the lower approach by hauling in huge boulders, large rocks, and a thousand pounds of dirt, and then the new Laurel Gulch bridge was complete.

If you get the opportunity, hike out to Laurel Gulch and take a look at the new bridge. For a photographic history of the bridge building from start to finish, check out these Internet web pages:

<http://www.crystallake.name/twork/25oct08/25oct08.php>

<http://www.crystallake.name/twork/08nov08/08nov08.php>

<http://www.crystallake.name/twork/24jan09/24jan09.php>

<http://www.crystallake.name/twork/18apr09/18apr09.php>

<http://www.crystallake.name/twork/25apr09/25apr09.php>

<http://www.crystallake.name/twork/09may09/08may09.php>

<http://www.crystallake.name/twork/15may09/15may09.php>

<http://www.crystallake.name/twork/30may09/30may09.php>

Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest Wrightwood, CA

<http://www.grassyhollow.net>

grassyhollow@hotmail.com

Loren Lake, Presidentlorenll@verizon.net

Wednesday Hiking Club

• Aug 8th 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

William S Hart UHSD of Santa Clarita ANF Crew 5130

If you need assistance with a work project, please contact Kevin Sarkissian at:

ksarkiss@hartdistrict.org.

Two week advance notice is requested since my kids are scattered far and wide during the summer months.

Upcoming events:

Elsmere and PCT work projects - TBD monthly
(June-Dec)

Get your SMOKEY on

How do you get your SMOKEY on?

Go to :

<http://www.youtube.com/smokeybear>



and

<http://www.myspace.com/wildfireprevention>

and look at the
videos!

**ONLY YOU CAN
PREVENT
WILD FIRES!**



Smokey Bear

He's a war hero who became a media mogul, celebrity pitchman, pop icon and philanthropist. He's so famous he was given his own ZIP Code, 20252, to handle the fan mail. He is 65 years old but has no intention of retiring.

Smokey Bear was born in August 1944, sired by a committee of ad men and government bureaucrats hoping to safeguard a key war material: wood. Smokey today remains the face of the longest-running public service campaign in U.S. history -- a simple message delivered by an anthropomorphic bear.

Zombie Squad

The work project I lead at Pacifico this past weekend was a success! Myself and the Southern California members of the "Zombie Squad" thank everyone evolved in facilitating this project.

We were able to give each table and bumper a fresh coat of padre brown paint and worked about four miles of the PCT. The other campers at Pacifico were excited to see a group of volunteers fixing up the campground, and one family even helped out with the painting.

I attached a couple of photos of the work

Thanks, Jon Gollihugh, Vol 160

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



THE ZOMBIE SQUAD? The Zombie Squad is a national organization of zombie movie fans that focus our efforts towards educating ourselves and our community about the importance of disaster preparation. To satisfy this goal we host disaster relief charity fundraisers, disaster preparation seminars and volunteer our time towards emergency response agencies. Our goal is to educate the public about the importance of personal preparedness and self reliance, to increase its readiness to respond to disasters such as Earthquakes, Floods, Terrorism or Zombie Outbreaks. We try to make sure the public are prepared for any crisis situation that might come along in your daily life. Our basic ideology of survival is if you are prepared for a zombie attack you will be prepared for just about any kind of emergency.



The Northwest Service Academy on the PCT



On my hike encountered some volunteers working on the PCT trail between Islip Saddle and Mt.Hawkins. The attached picture show one of the groups showing off the rock steps and water bars they just put in about 0.5 miles from Windy Gap towards Mt.Hawkins. They are college volunteers from the Northwest Service Academy, working with the PCTA for nine days out of Little Jimmy.

George Aumann

Forest Service Bi-monthly volunteer Meeting July 15, 2009

Forest Service Bi-monthly Volunteer Meeting Notes July 15, 2009

Brian Marcroft proposed moving the Forest Service bi-monthly volunteer meeting to the Angeles Crest Fire Station or until the Hahamongna Annex Project is approved and available for meetings.

Gary Hilliard has been clearing trees on Silver Moccasin NRT, Gabrielino NRT, between West Fork and Kenyon DeVore, and West Fork to Shortcut. He will not be doing anymore tree clearing until after Mt Disappointment Race scheduled for August 8th. DeVore Trail Camp to road needs poison oak removal.

Patty Dwyer reported Gould Mesa Trail Camp latrines were pumped. They painted over graffiti. If you want a Red Cross class with Tom, you need to request it in advance.

Mr. Marcroft reported there's graffiti at Echo Mountain. The Mt Lowe Road is open to Markham Saddle from the bottom. Eagle Scout candidate is working on reconstructing a bench on Mt Lowe, putting a sign at Mt Lowe East/West junction, and working the trail crossing at Mt Lowe Trail Camp. July 4th hike had only 2 people.

Terry Tanner reported mapping Grizzly Flats around Mt Lukens. Sister Elsie Trail is in bad condition. Someone is constructing an illegal spur trail at Mt Lukens.

Kathie Reilly reported on National Trails Day, June 6. There were over 100 volunteers at Mt Wilson on a cool, foggy day, perfect working weather. A lot of work was done on Mt Wilson Trail and the surrounding trails. Forest Service had arranged for Subway sandwiches, cookies and fruit platters that were awesome. Also at the pavilion were 2 busloads of Korean elders hosted by Wednesday Hiking Club having some sort of ceremony. They shared their BBQ food and gave us gift bags of medicinal salt. At 1:30 the Mount Wilson Institute group gave a short talk before the tour, about their plans to replace the pavilion with an information center/gift shop/restaurant.

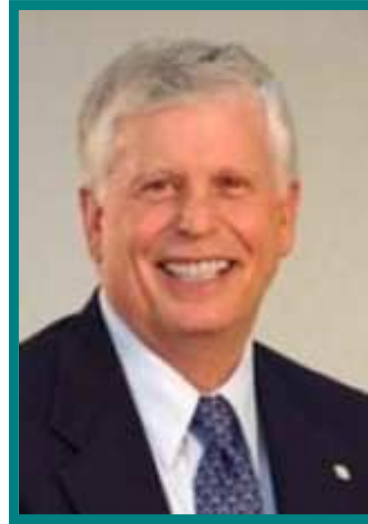
Jim Henderson of bicycle patrol reported an illegal trail behind Riverwood created by mountain bikers. CTUC is taking the lead on resolution of this trail.

LA Conservation Corps has completed maintenance on Doc Larsen and Oak Springs Trails.

Next meeting is September 16 and Terry Tanner will talk about how he does mapping with GPS. Mr. Marcroft will inform us of the place.

EDITORS NOTE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced on June 17 that U.S. Forest Service chief Gail Kimbell has been replaced by Tom Tidwell



Hello, I'm Tom Tidwell.

In recent years, the Forest Service has focused on issues of vital importance to conservation—issues that Chief Kimbell has brought to the fore—issues consistent with the things that Secretary Vilsack feels are important—issues that I will build on.

We will continue our work under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We will continue to meet our responsibility to provide job opportunities—to move our nation towards a more stable economy. I know that this work along with our 09 program of work will make a difference----- especially in the communities where many of you live and work.

We will continue our focus on restoration to improve the health of our forests and grasslands ---with an increased emphasis on watershed restoration.

We are in an era of climate change, and we will continue to respond accordingly. The Forest Service is in a unique position to provide solid climate change science and solutions for mitigation and adaptation-----and we need to apply these solutions on a landscape scale.

In this era of climate change, the challenge with the fire seasons will only continue to increase. But we know based on our experience that we can continue to reduce the risk to firefighters and the public, while increasing the effectiveness of our suppression actions.

We will also continue reconnecting Americans to nature, especially kids. We want all Americans to appreciate the vital role our nation's forests and grasslands provide in their lives.

In that same spirit, I want us to always focus on how we leave these lands for future generations. That is a core value of mine and a responsibility I take very seriously. I will continue to focus on bringing people together. Landscape-scale conservation ... collaboration across borders and boundaries ... I believe these are the keys to our future.

The challenges ahead are many and I will need your help and support. So I ask you to join me. Together, we will continue to make a difference. So thank you for your support---- thank you for what you do ... ensuring a bright future for the Forest Service, the lands we care for, and the people we serve.

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter Los Angeles Times June 26, 2008 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**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # (hm) _____

e-mail _____

Interests

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

Campground Host/ Visitor Information/ Smokey Bear - Fire Prevention/

Recreation Aid / Forest Patrol /Resource Management / Computers/

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

Conservation Education / habitat restoration and tree planting

Other: _____
