

**FOREST:** Citizens are key to public lands' health

*Continued from page 1*

process that I started studying criminal justice," he said. "I just took it one step at a time. Eventually I put all the puzzle pieces together."

The completed puzzle combined his love for the outdoors with another passion: "I'm driven to think like a cop, to work with other cops to protect people and lands," he said. Starting with the National Park Service, Perl eventually gained permanent status at Grand Canyon National Park. Then he shifted agencies, to the U.S. Forest Service.

"It was more independent work being an LEO (law enforcement officer) with the Forest Service, a little more investigative work," he said.

In 2000, Perl accepted an LEO position on the Flathead National Forest in Kalispell, Montana, and then transferred to the Sisters Ranger District in 2003.

He attributes the successes he attained here to the relationships he built with other law enforcement personnel and with the community.

"It really gets down to cooperation," he said. "It's really a team effort."

Perl's work involved protecting resources and people in an increasingly heavily trafficked forest. He investigated everything from illegal camping and resource damage to wildland fire. The workload has grown heavier and heavier as Sisters has been "discovered."

"It's high-use," he said. "It's almost become high-use year-round."

One of the biggest challenges of the job was simply determining where to put his efforts.

"You can't investigate everything; it just takes so much time," he said. "So you

have to prioritize."

And on any given day, an incident could change those priorities.

Partnerships and cooperation are key to gaining information and for the safety of an officer who is often working alone in remote areas. Perl always knew that other law enforcement personnel in the area had his back, as he had theirs.

"Somebody *will* come, because of the relationships," he said. "That's extremely important from an officer-safety standpoint."

In recent years, Perl was increasingly called upon to address illegal camping in the forest around Sisters — often involving homeless people, including families. It was a challenging line to walk, requiring Perl to enforce the law with a high level of compassion and understanding. It was never a simple, straightforward situation to manage, and, again, it required cooperation with local agencies and community members.

"You can only manage it, because people have such limitations," Perl said. "You can't just move them out."

Perl and his community partners sought to find help for those who could and would take it, to make it possible for them to change their situation. And they had some successes. But the problem persists, without any simple solution.

"It's a growing situation and we're well-aware of it," Perl said. "The agency is dealing with it to the best of their ability."

Perl is easing into retirement with no specific plans other than spending time with family.

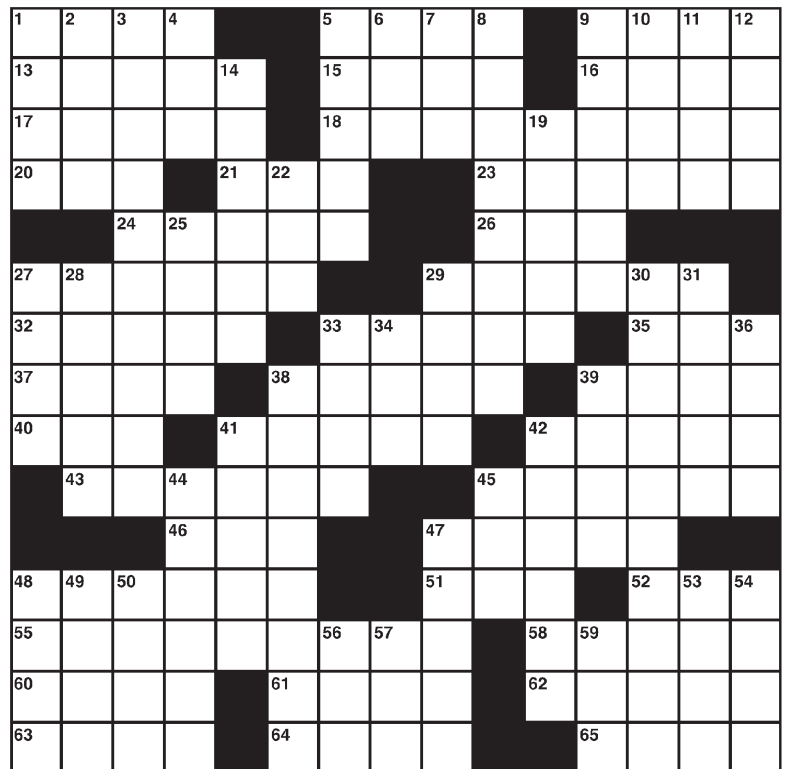
"I'm not making any concrete decisions right now," he said.

It's a certainty, however, that whatever the future holds, it will involve being out on the public lands Perl has loved and defended for decades.

# The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

- ACROSS**
- 1 Insincerely smooth
  - 5 Swiss skier's milieu
  - 9 Cellphone problem
  - 13 Appointed
  - 15 Fisherman's need
  - 16 Finish third
  - 17 More than sufficient
  - 18 Surgery
  - 20 Undersized
  - 21 TV's "\_\_\_ and Stacey"
  - 23 Make \_\_\_; beg pardon
  - 24 Cacophony
  - 26 Anguish
  - 27 Prickly shrubs
  - 29 All \_\_\_; klutzy
  - 32 State-run game
  - 33 Clip wool
  - 35 "\_\_\_ a Small World"
  - 37 Ice \_\_\_; cold periods
  - 38 Sheep's cry
  - 39 "Fiddlesticks!"
  - 40 Hot dog holder
  - 41 Smooth & shiny
  - 42 Terra-\_\_\_; orangish clay
  - 43 Engraved
  - 45 One of Santa's reindeer
  - 46 \_\_\_ Angeles
  - 47 Mountaineer's safeguards
  - 48 Finds appalling
  - 51 Name for a candy bar
  - 52 Little child
  - 55 Gorgeous
  - 58 Ruth's mother-in-law
  - 60 Come to shore
  - 61 Boxer's target
  - 62 Pyle or Kovacs
  - 63 On pins and needles
  - 64 \_\_\_ up; prepare
  - 65 New York team
- DOWN**
- 1 Chew like a beaver
  - 2 Cripple
  - 3 Not a bit sorry
  - 4 TV's "The Fresh Prince of \_\_\_-Air"
  - 5 Dwelling
  - 6 Drink like Rover
  - 7 Lemon meringue \_\_\_
  - 8 Panama
  - 9 Respect highly
  - 10 Goatee's place
  - 11 Parka feature
  - 12 Possesses
  - 14 Actor Robert \_\_\_
  - 19 Parisian love
  - 22 Curvy mountain road
  - 25 Cheerios ingredients
  - 27 Spill the beans
  - 28 Scoundrel
  - 29 Good wood for ships
  - 30 One's special gem
  - 31 Virginia, for one
  - 33 Winter toy
  - 34 TV's "\_\_\_ Haw"
  - 36 Guide for the Magi
  - 38 Consecrating
  - 39 Rx label info



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/11/20

— Last Week's Puzzle Solved —



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- 41 \_\_\_-tempered; irritable
- 42 Gangster known as "Scarface"
- 44 Weather forecast
- 45 Adams or Johnson
- 47 Measuring stick
- 48 Isn't \_\_\_ to; can't
- 49 Rosary piece
- 50 \_\_\_ around; stay for awhile
- 53 Leave out
- 54 \_\_\_ up; evens the score
- 56 Enemy
- 57 3rd most populous nation: abbr.
- 59 Phonograph part

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**SUDOKU** Level: Easy Answer: Page 22

3		4				7		2
			3					8
2		1			5			
8					2	9	5	
		2						1
	9		1					6
5		3			6			1
	2				7			3
		7		1				

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down, and each small nine-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.