



Pam Bode

## Ranger Bode begins job 'under fire'

By SHERRI HOPPER

"I value and have a strong commitment to public participation," said Pam Bode, new U.S. Forest Service ranger for the combined Illinois Valley/Galice Ranger District.

"I bring with me the past experience of bringing people together and I hope to continue that in my position as district ranger here," she said.

Bode served as a district ranger for the Gunnison National Forest in central Colorado previous to accepting her current position on July 2. During her 22-year career with the forest service, Bode has worked in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, New Mexico, Colorado and Washington, D.C.

She has served as a team leader for environmental assessment and in establishing environmental impact statements. She has extensive experience in recreation management, environmental education and timber planning.

As Bode and her family made plans for their relocation to Southwestern Oregon, the initial fires of what would evolve into the Biscuit Fire began burning in the Siskiyou National Forest.

The original plan had been to arrive in Illinois Valley on Aug. 5. But with the first blow-up of the fire, the Bode family began to rethink that plan.

"A week before we were to arrive in Cave Junction, the entire Illinois Valley was on a 30-minute evacuation notice," said Bode. "It didn't make sense to move in while everyone else was thinking about moving out."

Bode did decide to come ahead of her family, arriving in Illinois Valley Aug. 8. Her family joined her on Aug. 19. "Right now the fire is really demanding all of my attention, and normal forest service business has substantially come to a halt as we work on suppression and emergency rehabilitation issues," she said.

Bode also said that while the national forest west of Hwy. 199 remains closed, and will remain closed until it is safe to the public, forest service lands on the east side of Hwy. 199 remain open to the public.

Having arrived in the middle of a major forest fire, Bode said that she is impressed with the staff, who have also devoted their time to the fire effort.

"Right now I know I'm not getting the full spectrum of what the district deals with on a normal basis, but as the fire issues abate, I'll be focusing on opportunities," said Bode. "Certainly not ignoring the problems, but I will be focusing on opportunities."



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