

BUTTE FALLS RANGER DISTRICT NEWS

by Janice Schultz

Hello all! As summer continues to elude us, the Butte Falls Ranger District's season soggily sloshes on. The dates I gave you on campground openings in the last **BULLETIN** didn't quite ring true in real life. We had some problems with the Rocky Mountain Recreation concessionaire getting things up and running, and had to come to their rescue to meet a Memorial Day Week-end opening deadline. If anyone was inconvenienced by the incorrect opening date I wholeheartedly apologize. Whiskey Springs and Fourbit Ford were supposed to have campground hosts upon opening, but the concessionaire is still working on it. So.....while camping there, please help us out and report anything weird that you see going on, clean up your site when you leave, and be a considerate camper. Please keep your dog on a leash, and lights out and quiet by 10pm. Keep an eye on your stuff, and if you leave, take your valuable stuff with you. Parker Meadows is still not open as of this date (May 26, 1998) but that is because of the weather. If we continue to get snow above 4500 feet, it could be a while before Parker Meadows is accessible. Willow Prairie Horse Camp is open and does have campground hosts, Russ and Nellie Reichert. Russ and Nellie have been faithful hosts for us and do a great job. The reservation process for WPHC is over for the season, and all sites and dates not reserved for the rest of the season are available on a first come first served basis. Feel free to call the Butte Falls Ranger District at 541-865-2700, for information about sites and dates still available. There is a fee box on site for payment.

Most of the trail heads are still inaccessible due to snow, and hiking the trails is out of the question. You can get to the Middle Fork trail head, but will encounter snow within the first mile of your hike, which makes for a really short hike. We're hoping that the trail heads will melt off within the next week, making

them available for camping, but once again, if it snows above 4500 feet it could be a while.

Cows are out and about above and below Town, and out the Obenchain, and there has already been a couple of near misses and a wreck because of them. Forest Service permittees will be releasing onto Forest Service Land on June 1 and June 16, 1998. Please be careful when approaching the Town of Butte Falls from either end, and when visiting your National Forest. Drive slowly so you can stop, avoiding the necessity to swerve to miss a cow. Remember, if you break a cow, you buy a cow.

FREE FISHING DAY!!! It's June 6th this year and festivities will be at Medco Pond and Willow Lake. The Catfish Cove Club is sponsoring activities at Medco Pond, and our Forest Service Fisheries Biologist, Frank Lake, will be ram-rodging things at Willow Lake. Frank will be barbecuing hot dogs, and there will be contests and other fun events for kids. Come and get your picture taken with **SMOKEY THE BEAR!!** It starts at 7:00am and runs until 1:00pm.

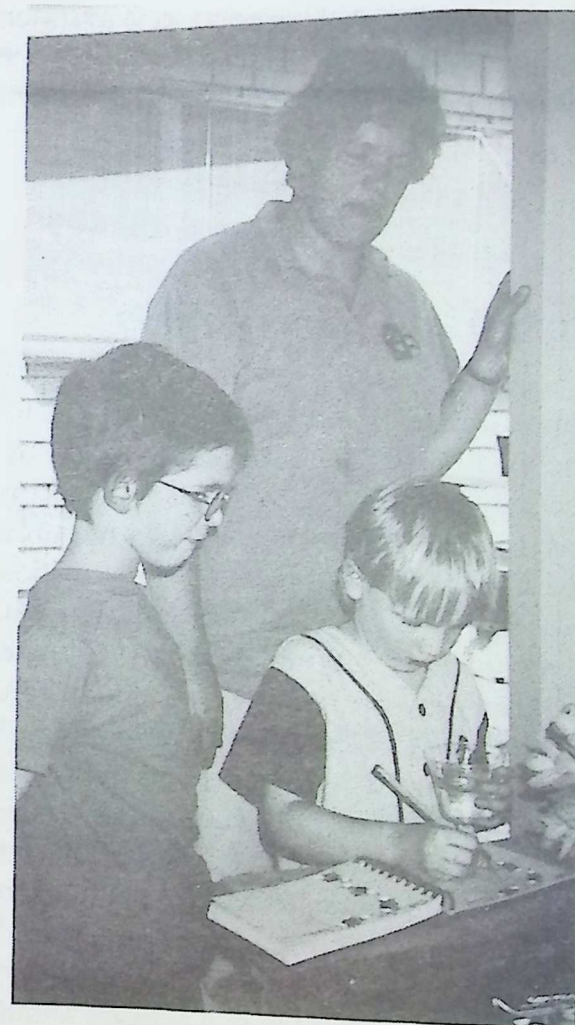
The morel mushroom season has been pretty good this year. They are still plentiful between 3500 and 4000 feet, and may remain so if the weather continues as it has been. Don't forget to stop in at the Ranger Station, Monday - Friday between 8am and 4:30pm to pick up a free use permit to pick for your personal use. If you are going to pick to sell, the cost of the permit is \$10.00.

The wildlife in our area is doing the spring thing, so please observe from a distance if you come across them. If you see something interesting or different please give us a call because we'd like to check it out too.

I'm going to end with a safety message that concerns you and our work force. We've hired a lot of students and a couple of new temporaries to help us through this summer work season. The bunkhouses are packed, and there will be a lot of activity in the compound and parking lots soon. Please be aware that

these new people are unfamiliar with their new surroundings, the Town as well as the woods. Please be patient and courteous. Give them a shove in the right direction if they have that "lost look" on their face. Our parking lot at the main office is crowded and busy with personal and Forest Service rigs coming and going all day. Please remember, and remind your kids, not to cut through there either driving or on foot, on bicycles or on skateboards during business hours. We are working toward the bigger rigs, trucks, vans, Broncos, Blazers, etc. parking at the back of the parking lot, leaving the spaces closer to the building where there isn't much backup space for cars. A big vehicle backing out may not see a person cutting through, especially a child.

EVERYBODY KEEP DOING A SUN DANCE.....KEEP PRAYING TO THE SUN GODS and maybe by the next **BULLETIN** we'll all be smiling!!! And tan!!!



Mrs. McNeill looks on as Leroy Arnold and Chase Ellis sign-in on Museum Guest Book.