

Christian von Huene

January 19, 2009, marked the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Chris von Huene.

Chris was an active member of the Friends of the Sandia Mountains and served also as a Sandia Ranger District volunteer. He was probably best known for his outstanding skill in the remediation of Sandia resources that had been defaced by the all too frequent graffiti found on the mountain. The creativity and artistic talents he applied to this task were unsurpassed.

He was also one of those people who could always be counted on to help with projects no matter what they were, from clearing trails, to hauling slash, he was there to help. We miss his ready smile and jovial personality. (Bob Lowder)

Volunteers Fell Almost 600 Hazard Trees

Volunteers continued felling hazard trees in picnic areas and at trailheads during FY2009. A significant change was made in the criteria defining hazard trees. Before March 2009, generally only dead trees were selected as hazard trees. In March, the new silviculturist, Paul Tidwell, began using the Southwestern Region Hazard Tree Evaluation Form to designate trees with the following defects as hazard trees: dead, dying, dead branches, exposed roots, cracks in trunk, lightning scar, leaning, insect damage, dead top, trunk wounds, forked trunks, cankers, bole (trunk) decay, cavities, and disease.

During the summer, the USFS began working on a contract for a commercial business to fell the hazard trees in all the picnic areas north of I-40 except Balsam Glade and Dry Camp where the volunteers were permitted to continue felling. The volunteers could also fell in the areas south of I-40.

The number of hazard trees felled in the picnic areas and at trailheads from September 15, 2008, to August 22, 2009, is given in the table below. Please

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 Nominating: Tim Brown

Picnic Area or Trailhead	Trees Felled	No. of Outings
Cienega Can.*	187	6
Sulphur Can.*	108	5
Balsam Glade	104	10
Doc Long*	103	7
Tijeras P. Trail	30	12
Dry Camp	22	3
Capulin Spg**	9	2
10K Trailhead	6	1
Tree Spg TH	2	2
South of I-40	23	8
Total	594	49

* Numerous small Gambel oak trees were felled in these picnic areas.

** Picnic area and snow play area.

note that these numbers include numerous small dead Gambel oak trees felled in the lower picnic areas. The number of outings reflects the number of days or partial days in which trees were felled at a site. The total number of felled trees was almost 600

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