



# Arizona's Gift

*from the Grand Canyon State*  
**CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE 2009**

## **CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE 2009**

# **APACHE SITGREAVES NATIONAL FORESTS**

The Apache and the Sitgreaves National Forests were administratively combined in 1974 and are now managed as one unit from the Forest Supervisor's Office in Springerville. The two-million-acre forest encompasses magnificent mountain country in east-central Arizona along the Mogollon Rim and the White Mountains.

What makes this forest so special? Its the water, and lots of it. Draining from melting winter snows, fresh water cascades from the high mountains to form numerous lakes and streams. The Apache Sitgreaves National Forests have become a world-famous fisherman's paradise in the arid Southwest. An amazing 34 lakes and reservoirs and more than 680 miles of rivers and streams exist here—more than can be found in any other Southwestern national forest. The White Mountains contain the headwaters of several Arizona rivers including the Black, the Little Colorado, and the San Francisco.

The Sitgreaves was named for Captain Lorenzo Sitgreaves, a government topographical engineer who conducted the first scientific expedition across Arizona in the early 1850s. On the Sitgreaves, the major attractions for visitors from the hot valleys of Phoenix or Tucson are the Mogollon Rim and the string of man-made lakes. From the Rim's 7600-foot elevation, vista points provide inspiring views of the low country to the south and west.

In the last century, the U.S. Army established a series of forts in New Mexico and Arizona. To supply these forts and settlements, a military road was built linking Sante Fe, New Mexico and Camp Verde near Prescott. Part of this road, called the General Crook Trail, runs almost the length of the Sitgreaves and in many places follows the brink of the Mogollon Rim.

The Apache National Forest is named after the tribes that settled in this area. It ranges in elevation from 3500 feet near Clifton to nearly 11,500 feet on Mount Baldy. The congressionally proclaimed Mount Baldy, Escudilla, and Bear Wallow wildernesses and the Blue Range Primitive Area make the Apache one of America's premier backcountry forests. The Apache is also noted for its trout streams and high-elevation lakes and meadows.

The management concerns on the Apache-Sitgreaves include the health and restoration of the watersheds, sustaining the forest's ecosystems, improving customer service in our recreation areas, reducing the dangers associated with wildfire in the urban interface, and maintaining the National Forest road system to desired standards.

Visit the official Apache Sitgreaves National Forests website at [www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf).

**APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FORESTS  
CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT 2009  
30 SOUTH CHIRICAHUA DRIVE  
SPRINGERVILLE, ARIZONA 85938**

[www.CAPITOLCHRISTMASTREE2009.ORG](http://www.CAPITOLCHRISTMASTREE2009.ORG)

**RICHARD DAVALOS  
CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE COORDINATOR  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FORESTS  
PHONE: 928-333-6301 FAX: 928-333-5966  
EMAIL: [RDAVALOS@FS.FED.US](mailto:rdavalos@fs.fed.us)**