

I know the mountain drums have been talking so thought I would confirm one of the rumors out there. As some of you know, I came down with an acute illness at the end of August which I have not totally recovered from. Full recovery can take 6 months to a year. After much consideration and family discussion, I have decided to retire January 1, 2012. Although I know this is the right decision for me, it is incredibly hard to leave after a 32 year career with the Agency. I have been the District Ranger (DR) here on Summit since spring of 1992; 19 and 1/2 years ago. My last work day will be December 30 so this mailing list will no longer exist after that. I do not know if the new District Ranger after me will want to continue this, but I will print it for him/her for consideration. Thank you all for your long support and interest in the management of the District and Forest. I wish you all the best.

The Forest has started the process to fill in behind me. They are advertising for a short term detailer until they can get thru the process to fill the job permanently. Depending on timing, Julie Martin will be acting DR for January and Kathy Burnett for February if needed. I hope you will welcome the new Ranger with your continuing support. This Forest is valued by all of us and by working together we will ensure the best outcome for the health and sustainability of the resources and the many benefits derived from these public lands; not just for ourselves, but for future generations as well. I am very proud to have been a part of the management and administration of the Stanislaus National Forest, Summit Ranger District, "Caring for the Land and Serving People". I will greatly miss the District, Forest, employees and you folks. Have a great holiday season and New Year.

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