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Couple Visits Every Forest Campground

Sometimes research projects can take a long time to complete.

Fred and Suzi Dow took 14 years to finish theirs. It netted them a Certificate of Achievement from Chief Gail Kimbell.

In 2008, they completed their research of the Chugach National Forest, finishing off a 14 year project to provide the public, free of charge, a complete and consolidated source of information on developed campgrounds in the national forests.

Since they started in 1994, Fred and Suzi have seen a lot of changes: Data General "DG" computers replaced by personal computers; an increased need for concessionaires; implementation of the fee demo program and its replacement; payphones disappearing for cell phones; and, what would have been considered science-fiction back then, the start and growth of WiFi.

The list is long but Fred and Suzi say, "Consistent and unchanging during this time has been the work ethic, dedication, and resourcefulness of the recreation staff we've worked with since starting the U.S. National Forest Campground Guide project."

As the Dows told Chief Kimbell when they accepted their Certificate of Achievement, "we are proud of what we have done. Our national forests are an important part of our heritage and offer all of us a wide variety of recreational opportunities. However, what we have accomplished would not have value if it wasn't for the dedication and hard work of Forest Service employees. They are short handed, short changed, and over-loaded. Few know this better than we do."

"Thank you is a simple phrase and not said often enough. If the hundreds of email received from users of our Web site, is any indication, the majority of visitors to our national forests would appreciate our conveying a big, "Thank You," to every Forest Service employee we met on our travels. So, 'Thank You' from the people who have benefited from your efforts."

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