Kersey Students Visit the PNG

In late October, 83 Platt Valley Elementary School third-graders from Kersey, Colo. and their teachers learned all about the Pawnee National Grassland at the Steward J. Adams Education Site in the Crow Valley Recreation Area.

Last term, third graders made the same trek in the spring as their teachers changed their curriculum. However, the teachers decided the fall visit was a better fit for what students were learning in the classroom. Grassland employees Mary Ann Chambers, Mike Salazar, Susan Coppelli, Randy Reichert, along with volunteer naturalist Dick Maxfield, introduced students to grassland human history and resource management and provided special water resources demonstration. Dick Maxfield turned the students into birders as they searched the skies for raptors and songbirds.

Everyone enjoyed a hike on the Mourning Dove trail and finished the day with a scavenger hunt for some elusive “creatures” that magically turned into sweet treats to eat on the ride home. This is the fifth school year the Pawnee has hosted this event for Platte Valley Elementary.
Message from the New Ranger...

Hi folks,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and is moving into the rest of the holiday season without too much trouble.

As things have slowed down somewhat for the winter, I just wanted to say that my first couple of months as the Ranger for the Pawnee National Grassland has been a good thing for me. I have met many new people and had a chance to talk to them about the things that make the grasslands special to them. I’ve learned about some of the history and heard some things about what folks would like to see in the future. I am looking forward to attending the annual grazing association meetings in the new year and meeting some of the folks I know about but have not yet met.

I have also been very pleased to meet and work with a number of volunteers and partners. Coming from very rural parts of the country, I am amazed to meet so many enthusiastic people, who contribute their time, skills and funding in such a way.

Not having much else to report this month, I wanted to wish all a merry holiday season.

Curtis Youngman

PNG News...

Look for the next Range Bulletin in February 2015!

~

Northern Colorado Rocketry’s special use permit to hold rocket launches on the Pawnee National Grassland will expire at the end of the year. They have requested a new permit and we are evaluating that request. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jon Halverson at 970-295-6723 or jhalverson@fs.fed.us before the end of December.

~

The Main OHV area is once again open from Nov. 1 to April 9.

Happy Holidays from the Pawnee National Grassland!