



National Fire Plan

Park Donates Firewood to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Mount Rushmore National Memorial – Community Assistance

Mount Rushmore National Memorial last fall launched a multi-year firewood donation program from the National Park Service to the people of the Oglala Lakota Nation on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Many of the tribal elders use firewood as their sole source of home heating; park staff loaded the wood and delivered it to the tribe.

Park Superintendent Gerard Baker said the program serves partnership needs and reduces fuel loads in the park. “This project can be done safely, accommodates both park and tribal needs, and helps promote a positive relationship with Pine Ridge,” he said.



“We are excited at this opportunity,” said Tribal Emergency Manager Monica Terkildsen, “and are willing to assist any way we can. I believe we can have a win-win situation that is positive and reflects the true spirit of community – or as we say, *Tiospaye*.”

Park employees are enthusiastic about the project; they quickly offered to load and deliver the wood. Drop-off points for the firewood were determined by the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

“This is a great program,” said Mount Rushmore’s Division Chief Duane Bubac. “It provides a mechanism for park staff to help a neighbor, while at the same time reducing the threat of a catastrophic wildland fire within the park.”



For more information, contact Duane Bubac at (605)574-3112