



SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 3, 1998

To: Curt Deuser, Lake Mead Natural Resource Area, RM Specialist

From: John Paul Roccaforte, Research Technician, NAU School of Forestry, Ecology Lab

Subject: Wood Samples from Lake Mead & Mt. Dellenbaugh / TWIN PT.

The wood samples from the Lake Mead Natural Resource Area and Mt. Dellenbaugh have been processed (cut down, mounted on plywood, and sanded) and dated. The ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) snag has an inner ring of 1428 and is one of the oldest samples we have looked at here in the ecology lab. The two pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*) samples had inner ring dates of 1912 and 1922. These trees are postsettlement. The juniper (*Juniperus sp.*) samples are also postsettlement with inner ring dates of 1917, 1949, and 1934. Because ponderosa and pinyon pines have regular ring patterns, these samples are dated very accurately (within 1-2 years). Junipers, however, have somewhat irregular ring patterns and are very difficult to date. I feel confident that they are dated within five years. Regardless of their exact inner ring date, they are definitely postsettlement.

There are some markings on the samples which may be unfamiliar to you. A single dot on the sample indicates a decade (e.g. 1990, 1980, etc.), two dots indicate the 50th year (e.g. 1950, 1850, etc.), and three dots indicate the century year (e.g. 1900, 1800, etc.). A circled ring indicates that it was counted and a boxed ring indicates a false ring (not counted). The inner ring date indicates the inner most ring counted on the sample not including the pith. Also, I have enclosed a pamphlet entitled "Guide to Crossdating" for your reference.

I hope the information provided is sufficient. Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance.