

## SYCAMORE CABIN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

CAMP VERDE NEWS DEC. 8, 2006

### Sycamore Cabin rental fee to raise next year

Beginning early in 2007, the Prescott National Forest plans to increase the overnight rental fee for historic Sycamore Cabin.

Sycamore Cabin, built in 1936, is located on the Verde Ranger District, nine miles east of Interstate 17, along the Dugas Road. The Cabin was once used as a residence for a Forest Service Ranger stationed at the site and is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. The building is now adapted for use as a rental cabin.

For the past eight years Sycamore Cabin has been a refuge for visitors from around the state. The Cabin is situated on the banks of Sycamore Creek with ready access to hiking, off road vehicle use and wildlife watching. It was one of the cabins featured in an *Arizona Highways* article (February 2005) that captured the essence of the Forest Service's "Rooms With a View" program in which unused buildings on National Forests in Arizona are converted to rental cabins. The rental fees help fund operation and main-

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tenance for the cabins, allowing the building to be preserved while giving visitors a unique recreation experience.

The current rental fee is \$100 per night. The rate will increase to \$125 per night. With two bedrooms and an indoor bath, Sycamore Cabin sleeps up to eight people. There is a full kitchen with an electric range and a full size refrigerator, along with a limited amount of cookware and tableware. The cabin has central heating and air conditioning. It also has a wood burning stove in the living room. There is a fully fenced yard. Visitors supply their own towels and bedding.

Visitors may bring an RV unit to the cabin site and make use of the RV site adjacent to the cabin. The RV site has hookups for electric, water and sewer. If the RV site is used there is an additional \$25 per night fee and two additional people are allowed to occupy the cabin site,

for a maximum of 10 persons.

The cabin is open for rental yearlong. Reservations are made by contacting the Forest Service National Recreation Reservation Service, ReserveUSA, 1-877-444-6777 or [www.reserveusa.com](http://www.reserveusa.com). Currently, reservations are still being made at the rate of \$100 per night. The increased fee of \$125 or \$150 per night rental fee will not take effect until January or February, 2007. For all reservations, a \$9 service fee is charged per reservation. The reservation service also has information about renting and reserving other Forest Service facilities, including those offered under the Arizona "Rooms With a View" program.

As required by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (REA), all recreation sites that charge a new fee must meet certain criteria before fees are changed or initiated. Sycamore Cabin rental meets criteria for charging reasonable recreation use fees. Proposals for fee sites are reviewed by a Recreation Resource Advisory

Committee (RRAC) composed of citizens who have recreation interests on public lands. The existing Bureau of Land Management's Arizona Resource Advisory Council (BLM RAC) has been authorized to perform this function for fee sites in Arizona. The proposed fee for Sycamore Cabin will be reviewed at the next regular meeting of the BLM RAC in December. More information about this meeting can be obtained by calling the BLM state office at 602-417-9215.

Questions or comments regarding Forest Service plans to increase the rental fee at Sycamore Cabin can be directed to Doug Schmidgall, Prescott National Forest, phone 928-443-8177.

See CABIN on 13A

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