



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Arizona State Office

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Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4427

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In Reply Refer To:
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*J. Losacco
3-24-06
J. Losacco
3/27/06*

Ms. Becky Jensen
The Office of Senator John McCain
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ms. Jensen:

I appreciate the time you took to meet with me during my recent trip to Washington, D.C. With the many public lands issues we have in common, I believe it is important to work together to achieve our common goals. I appreciate the communications and working relationship the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has with your office, both nationally and locally.

As a follow up to our discussion, I've enclosed information on BLM's Las Cienegas National Conservation Area regarding the invitation made to First Lady Laura Bush to attend a special ceremony in recognition of the Centennial of the Antiquities Act at the Empire Ranch.

As always, please contact me any time I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Elaine Y. Zielinski

Elaine Y. Zielinski
State Director

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable John McCain
United States Senator
Attention: Carlos Sierra
5353 N. 16th Street, Suite 105
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

JLosacco:sw:03-24-06

The Department of the Interior
Las Cienegas National Conservation Area's Historic Empire Ranch
Invites First Lady Laura Bush



- WHO:** The Department of the Interior has invited First Lady Laura Bush to celebrate the heritage resources and tourism opportunities at the historic Empire Ranch in the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (NCA) in Arizona.
- WHAT:** A proposed tour and recognition ceremony will be one of the main events highlighting the **Centennial of the Antiquities Act, Preserve America, and BLM's "Adventures in the Past"** initiatives.
- WHERE:** The event location will be at the BLM Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, approximately 45 miles southeast of Tucson, Arizona.
- WHEN:** The proposed date is June 11, 2005. However, the date may change depending on the First Lady's availability.
- BACKGROUND:** The historic Empire Ranch House forms the centerpiece of Las Cienegas NCA, which was designated by Congress in 2000, and is administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM undertook preservation and stabilization of the seven historic-era buildings forming the Empire Ranch Headquarters complex soon after acquiring the land in the 1980s.
- In 1997, a group of private citizens formed the Empire Ranch Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the historic buildings and their history. The Foundation is collaborating with the BLM to determine future uses of the buildings. It is also actively engaged in raising funds to help pay for preservation and historic interpretation of the ranch, and public education about rural life in southeast Arizona.