

**Arizona Recreation Resource Advisory Council  
Final Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2010**

**Bureau of Land Management National Training Center  
9828 North 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona**

**AGENDA ITEM: Recreation Resource Advisory Council (RRAC) Session**

- **REA Work Group Report, Steve Saway**
- **FS Fee Proposals, Jeff Saari, Region 3 Developed Sites Program Manager, Kathy Makansi, Coronado National Forest and Michael Lyndon, Kaibab National Forest**
- **Discussion of Next REA Working Group Meeting and Upcoming BLM and Forest Service Recreation Fee Proposals (RAC Members)**

**AGENDA ITEM: Recreation Resource Advisory Council (RRAC) Session.**

Meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 p.m. by Steve Saway, RRAC Chair.

1. Report from Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) Work Group. Steve Saway gave a brief introduction to the RRAC process and summarized results of a REA Work Group meeting held on February 3, 2010. The Arizona RAC is chartered to review recreation fee proposals from both BLM and Forest Service. Today's RRAC agenda includes two fee proposals. Both proposals are for cabin rentals, one in the Coronado National Forest and one in the Kaibab National Forest. The REA Work Group met with the Forest Service via teleconference to understand each facility and how the fee structures were determined. Both proposals have demonstrated good public outreach and are located in highly desirable places for the public to enjoy. The REA Work Group agreed that these proposals were ready for the RAC's review.

2. **Forest Service Fee Proposal Presentation (see handout), Kent Springs Cabin, Coronado National Forest, and Hull Cabin, Kaibab National Forest** (Jeff Saari, Region 3 Developed Sites Program Manager; Kathy Makansi, Coronado National Forest; and Michael Lyndon, Kaibab National Forest). Jeff Saari introduced Kathy Makansi and Michael Lyndon who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the two fee proposals. The Kent Springs cabin on 4 acres was constructed in the 1960s and purchased by the Forest Service. Was previously used under a special use permit of the Santa Rita Lodge and returned to the Forest Service in 2008. The Hull Cabin was built in 1884-1889 and located south of the Grand Canyon. Originally built by a private interest, the facility has been used as an administrative site by the Forest Service. Adding these two cabins to the cabin rental program would make a total of 14 cabins. Cabins are reserved via an online system that takes credit cards. Primary goals are to protect historic structures and provide unique opportunities to the public. Justification: fee revenues are the only source of funds for landlord-type maintenance. Did 33 types of public outreach for comments, gave presentations to the public, Federal Register Notices, etc. Have had three negative comments. Have had a lot of public support in favor of cabin rentals. Question: Are

deposits required? No. The Forest Service has three cabins on the Coronado National Forest and has not had any major issues. Regarding the Hull Cabin proposal, jeep tours (2 per day) with special use permits are allowed to ride through the area for interpretation and photographs, but cannot exit their vehicles. Businesses (jeep tours) existed before the cabin rentals started so they should not be pushed out. Regarding the proposed fee levels, the RAC members expressed differing views, ranging from too low to too high. Steve Saway asked if the fee should be based on a sliding scale, so that a group of four or less could pay a lower fee. Jeff Saari mentioned the concept of a minimum/maximum fee range, so that the Forest Service could charge a lower fee to attract visitors during low use seasons. He may pursue that concept for future fee proposals.

**3. Public Comment on the Forest Service Recreation Fee Proposals.** Public comment period was opened for members of the public to comment on the fee proposals under consideration. There being no public comments, the public comment period was closed.

**4. RAC Fee Proposal Recommendations to BLM State Director.**

**MOTIONED by Carl Taylor to recommend approval of the Forest Service Recreation Fee Proposals as presented. SECONDED by Richard Lunt. MOTION APPROVED BY THE RAC.**

**There being no further business, the RRAC session was adjourned at about 3:30 p.m.**