

# Minutes

## Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) Work Group Meeting

### January 29, 2008

1. A meeting of the REA Work Group was convened via conference call at 10:00 a.m. on January 29, 2008. A toll free bridge line number was kindly arranged by Deborah Stevens for this conference call. Purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss a new fee proposal by the Coronado National Forest for the Kentucky Camp Headquarters Building.

2. Attendees:

a. REA Work Group members: Glen Collins, Frances Werner, Norman Perry, and Steve Saway.

b. Forest Service personnel: Jeff Saari, Southwestern Region; Kathy Makansi and Chris Shrager, Coronado National Forest.

c. BLM representatives: Don Applegate, Arizona Recreation Program Lead, BLM Arizona State Office.

3. The following documents were posted to the RRAC web site prior to the conference call and contain details on the fee proposal (as requested, two Work Group members received hard copies as well):

a. Kentucky Camp Headquarters Building, Nogales Ranger District, Coronado National Forest, Recreation Enhancement Act Fee Proposal (adobe acrobat document).

b. Kentucky Camp Headquarters "Rooms With A View" Arizona Cabin Rental Program (PowerPoint presentation).

4. Discussion:

a. The Chair asked all attendees to introduce themselves and then discussed the purpose of the meeting. Next, the Coronado National Forest representatives provided background on the Kentucky Camp Headquarters Building, including the site's history of gold mining and events leading to the Forest Service acquisition and restoration of the property. They then presented details on the fee proposal using the documents mentioned above.

b. During the presentation, the briefers fielded questions and comments by the REA Work Group members. Some points raised by this discussion include the following:

-- Currently the Kentucky Camp cabin rents for \$75 per night. The Headquarters Building will be rented as a package with the cabin for \$200, which includes 2 nights at the cabin and day use of the Headquarters Building. This arrangement was selected after much deliberation and to eliminate conflicts that could occur if the cabin and Headquarters Building were rented to separate groups at the same or over-lapping times.

-- The cabin will accommodate 5 visitors for overnight use; the Headquarters Building has a 50 person day use capacity. For large groups, there is dispersed camping nearby though not on the grounds of the fee site. A small parking area is available on-site with more parking about a quarter mile away.

-- The projected annual revenue of \$8000 exceeds projected annual operations, maintenance, and administrative costs of \$4310, leaving a net annual accrual of \$3690 for capital improvements. The proposed fee is the only source of funds for O&M costs and is in line with fees for similar facilities.

-- Public notification efforts have included a Federal Register notice, a legal notice in the Arizona Daily Star, links on the Coronado National Forest web site, flyers posted at the Headquarters Building and cabin, emails to organized groups, news releases, and articles in the Friends of Kentucky Camp newsletter. Feedback to date indicates the proposal has support and is not controversial.

5. After the presentation and discussion, the Work Group made the following suggestions to address some visitor management concerns:

a. Recommend the fee proposal define the number of vehicles permitted to park on-site (including a defined parking area). Also, clarify where folks with recreational vehicles can park and/or camp.

b. Recommend the fee proposal clarify the number of people who can stay overnight on-site, and identify where dispersed camping can occur nearby to accommodate large groups.

6. Overall, the Work Group's assessment of the fee proposal was positive and agreed it should be reviewed at the next RRAC meeting in March. In summary, the Chair thanked the Forest Service representatives for an excellent presentation and mentioned the following reminders: (a) provide input to Deborah Stevens for the RRAC meeting Federal Register notice, (b) update as needed the fee proposal files on the RRAC web site, and (c) use the condensed presentation format for the RRAC meeting.

7. Next, Don Applegate gave the Work Group an update regarding fee change proposals for sites managed by the Arizona Strip field office. The sites fall within the interstate Paria Canyon/Coyote Buttes Special Management Area Project, which crosses the Utah-Arizona state line. Most of the fee sites are in Arizona. It must be determined whether the Utah RAC or Arizona RAC will review these proposals. The Utah RAC will address this question at their next meeting. Don would like the Arizona RAC to address this as well at the March meeting. He will provide the group feedback on results of the Utah RAC meeting. The Chair agreed with this strategy and will make this an agenda item for the next REA Work Group and RRAC meetings in March.

8. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

9. Minutes submitted by: Steve Saway, REA Work Group Chair

10. Date approved: March 5, 2008