



CABIN-NEWSLETTER

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S U M M E R 2 0 0 8

CABIN PERMIT FEES TO INCREASE

A particularly concerning issue currently facing cabin owners is how much will the new appraisals affect our permit fees?

For years, NFH has led a mighty effort in Congress to establish a law by which cabin fees would be regulated. CUFFA, the Cabin Users' Fee Fairness Act, was successfully instituted, however, now the law is not being interpreted as intended. The result may put some cabin communities in a position of exceptional rate increases. The result of the Mount Laguna appraisals have not been determined yet and there may be something we can still do. We all recently received a letter from the Cabin Coalition that include important details on this issue. We should all follow their suggestion and write our Senators and Representatives. Let them know that the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act (CUFFA) passed in October of 2000 is not being followed as intended. Under USFS rules, we are only allowed restricted recreational usage. We do not have the same benefits of a private full-time residence and therefore should not be appraised at the same dollar value. Increasing fees to that level are contrary to a program that was designed for limited summer & weekend usage of cabins.

Call, write, fax or e-mail and express in your own words why it's so important that we get a fair assessment of our cabin value and that our fees should correspond appropriately with our limited usage parameters.

For California Senators, address your correspondence to:
Honorable Barbara Boxer,
12 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510
Honorable Dianne Feinstein,
331 Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510

For the name of your Representative in Congress go to:
www.visi.com/juan/congress/
or check you local newspaper or library,
or call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-225-3121
Address your correspondence to your representative at:
Honorable _____, US House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515

If you would like a copy of the Cabin Coalition letter, mentioned above, contact John Wallar at 949-361-5572.

See you at the MLIA PICNIC, June 14, Al Bahr Shrine Camp!

NFH CONVENTION RECAP

A few of us recently attended the National Forest Homeowners Convention on April 17, 18, 19, and 20 in Riverside, California. It was nice to see some of our Mount Laguna neighbors, however, it would have been good to see more of you attend. The value of the NFH organization was evident in the information provided including upcoming plans from Washington D.C., healthy forest initiatives, permit fees renewals, and the costs of fighting forest fires.

Of particular interest, was a presentation by Dr. Thomas Bonnicksen on the far-reaching impact of wild fires. Our overcrowded forests are dying and the risk of catastrophic fires is on the rise. When forests burn, large amounts of CO2 are released into the atmosphere, followed by even larger amounts of CO2 from the decaying vegetation left behind. The damage is compounded further by the destruction of healthy plant life essential to cleaning our air. Care and proper management of our National Forests are of paramount importance with critical environmental consequences.

Even as Forest Service budgets and resources are being stretched to the limit, one bright opportunity for the future emerges as a possible relief to some of the burden. Training programs are being initiated in Washington that will educate forest personnel how to build an extended volunteer base throughout the forest system. As many of you know, the Laguna Mountain Volunteer Association has been hard at work for years leading public recreation and education programs on the mountain. Now, MLIA may be soon able to expand our volunteer efforts into the cabin program. As a group, anything we can do to help support our local Forest Service, benefits us all.

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WATER & MAINTENANCE

Reminder, if you have any problems with the MLIA water system, please report it to Dan Fritz at 619-405-1452 or 619-749-4553.

WWW.MTLAGUNA.ORG