



CABIN-NEWSLETTER

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MT LAGUNA AWARDED "OUTSTANDING TRACT" BY NFH

On April 17th and 18th, I attended the National Forest Homeowners Convention in Seattle, Washington. One of the highlights of the convention was Sat. night at the Award Banquet. Mount Laguna Improvement Association was awarded the Outstanding Cabin Tract of the Year! All of you should be proud of this accomplishment. We have worked hard to be compliant of all the rules for our permit renewal. Also with the leadership of the Fire Safe Council and the partnership with the Forest Service, Mount Laguna is a safer and cleaner community. We will all continue this process to ensure our cabins survive a fire or other natural disaster.

During the convention, we had many speakers & workshops that were filled with interesting information. Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief of the Forest Service and number two man in Washington, presented insights on how the stimulus package will help the Forest Service, but also warned that these funds are not forever. Hopefully, they will help the Forest Service catch-up on much deferred maintenance. In addition, Greg Smith, Director of Lands, talked about the appraisal process and the fact that they are behind in many areas and will not be completed on the original timeline.

The main topic for much of the convention was CUFFA and the need to change the appraisal process. We on Mt Laguna have received our new permit fee amounts that will go into affect for 2011. Most of our fees are around \$1800 or \$1900. The problem is with other areas that are much higher. Nationwide this is where the fees are coming in:

9.6% are \$1000
20.4% are \$5000
8.6% are \$7000

At this time, 25% of our Region #5 has been appraised. The average fee is \$2818. As the trend is going, the balance of the appraisals should be between \$2000 - \$4000.

Many of us only have 10 - 20 years more to enjoy our cabins, so why should we care? Our fee is affordable. Has your family enjoyed the cabin and the outdoors or Mount Laguna? Would it not be good for your children and their children to enjoy the outdoor experience for generations to come? We must think of them and the future. If the cabin program is to continue, it must be affordable for the average American. CUFFA needs to be changed to make the appraisals fair by taking into account the restricted usage we have of our cabins.

WWW.MTLAGUNA.ORG

National Forest Homeowners was instrumental in having congress write the law that is CUFFA, so we can work together to get it changed. Your help is needed both financially and with letters to your Senators and Representatives by letting them know how much you enjoy your cabin and how we benefit the community.

The NFH website (www.nationalforesthowners.org) has examples and information on the economic impact we have on the area. If CUFFA is not changed and cabin owners are forced to walk away from cabins because the fee is too high and they cannot sell, we lose our strength. Eventually, the cabin program revenue will not support the cost to run the program and the government will have to end it. No cabins, no walks in the woods, no nights sleeping with the sounds of nature outside.

There are two current proposals on how to change the law. I have copies, your board members have copies, and they are on the website. Please help us save this great experience for future generations.

*John Wallar, Cabin # 718
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FOREST SERVICE NEWS

First, I want to thank all of you who worked so hard in the previous years to get your recreation residence into compliance and meet the deadline of 12/31/2008. We only had a couple of folks who needed more time to get their cabin into compliance and a one year permit was issued.

I just received word that your new 20 year Special Use Term Recreation Residence Permit will be signed and returned to you within the next 2 to 3 months. This has been a long process and I thank you for your patience.

The Forest Service will be conducting inspections again this year, June through August. The fire inspections will start in June and cabin inspections will start in July. Please read the Standards and Guidelines for Hazard Trees on Page 3.

Spring and summer are the times when we all start to think about planting. Please call before you start and I will send you a plant list. Remember only plants native to the area can be planted.

Please make sure your fire hazard reduction is done and HAVE A SAFE SUMMER.

*Susan DeSonia, Recreation/Land Assistant
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