

Minutes of November 3, 2018 SBNF Cabin Coalition Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am in the Community Room of the Big Bear Discovery Center. 8 cabin representatives were in attendance from the following 6 tracts: Barton Flats, Falls, South Fork Santa Ana River, Metcalf, Lytle Creek and Minnelusa. Also attending were Mark Stamer, District Ranger for the Mountaintop District, and Casey Shaffer, Special Uses Resource Assistant Intern on the Mountaintop.

Forest Service Update

Staffing Scott Evans is on detail to the Cleveland NF through January 2019. Casey Shaffer is helping cover cabin issues during Scott's absence. Be patient with any requests. Mark Stamer noted that there are normally 3 Special Uses Administrators across the Forest. With Scott being gone, there are none presently.

Mark told the group that the Forest will be reorganizing how it administers special uses, of which recreation residences are only about 10 percent. Beginning in January 2019 Special Uses staff will be responsible for designated types of special uses across the entire forest, not just on a single district. It is expected that this will result in more consistency in administering the various uses across the forest. Mark also mentioned that they are trying to add special uses staff.

Staffing on the various Ranger Districts is as follows:

Forest Office

- Jody Noiron [jnoiron@fs.fed.us, 909-382-2710] Forest Supervisor
- Thad Chavez [thadchavez@fs.fed.us, 909-382-2772] District Fire Mgmt Officer
- Dan Grijalva [dsgrijalva@fs.fed.us] Forest Archeologist/Tribal Liaison

Mountaintop Ranger District

- Marc Stamer [mstamer@fs.fed.us, 909-382-2728] District Ranger
- David Kotlarski [dkotlarski@fs.fed.us, 909-382-2815] Public Services Manager (oversees the Special Uses Administrators, among other duties)
- Scott Evans [saevans@fs.fed.us, 909-382-2808] Scott is the primary administrator for cabins. Scott prefers emails.
- Casey Shaffer [caseyshaffer@fs.fed.us, 909-382-2872] Special Uses Resource Assistant Intern

Front Country Ranger District

- Joe Rechsteiner [jrechsteiner@fs.fed.us, 909-392-2851] District Ranger
- Santiano (Sonny) Rivera [santianomrivera@fs.fed.us, 909-382-2929] Special Uses Permit Admin.

San Jacinto Ranger District

- Acturo Delgado [adelgado@fs.fed.us, 909-382-2921] District Ranger;
- Heidi Hoggan [hhoggan@fs.fed.us, 909-382-2945] Special Uses

Forest Service Dispatcher [24 Hour] 909-383-5654

Permit Transfers Casey is working to catch up on issuance of new permits for sales and permittee transfers and told us there are quite a few pending. Mark noted that there are about 30 cabin permits transferred each year (which seemed a bit low). If you sell or transfer your cabin within your family, make sure that the permit is transferred or bills may continue coming to you and, perhaps more importantly, County property taxes will be in your name.

Cabin Inspections Casey has been preparing to initiate the 2018 cabin inspections if winter weather holds off. Any cabins not able to be inspected before the end of December will be added to next year's list. During discussion, Mark noted that inspecting for compliance is important even if cabin owners are unable to make corrections before winter. This allows the FS to document compliance issues such as unauthorized construction or demolition, exterior construction and outside storage. It was noted that cabin owners have not known when past inspections have been done if there were no deficiencies. Mark and Casey agreed to send a quick notification to the permit holder when cabins have been inspected.

Improvement Requests Casey noted the formal policy of requiring submission of Improvement Requests by the end of August for approval before the next summer, but noted that she and Scott continue to review and act on improvement requests as they are received. There are only a few still being processed, so if you believe that you have a request submitted but haven't heard anything, you should email Casey to check on your request.

The Recreation Residence Proposal Request can be downloaded from the Recreation Residences page on the Forest website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/sbnf/recreation/camping-cabins/>

Fuels Clearance Projects If you have dead or leaning trees that threaten your or a neighbor cabin, it is the permittee's responsibility to remove the tree. Contact Casey to have the tree inspected and approved for removal.

Mark noted that a fuels clearance project continues in the South Big Bear area from Sugarloaf westward and a new project has been approved in the Poop-Out Hill area south of Hwy 38. He also told us that the forest is putting together burn plans for pile burning as soon as the weather allows and for larger prescribed burns in the South Big Bear, Bluff Lake and North Shore areas. Mark stated that prescribed burns are the only way to treat the massive fuel load that exists on the forest. He expects that a scoping document for such burn projects will be issued in May-June 2019.

Non-Motorized Trails When asked about other activities on the Forest, Mark spoke about the huge amount of volunteer and cooperative work being done on non-motorized trails. The mountain bike community is now helping manage existing trails and to develop a trail system plan that will identify gaps in the system and where new trails might be developed to handle the increasing number of visitors. And in June a trail host program began and now has over 50 volunteer hosts participating.

Historic Preservation Following our August meeting, Dan Grijalva, Forest Archeologist/Tribal Liaison, provided documentation showing that 5 full cabin tracts and the Southwest Shore Colony are the only historic surveys that have been completed, although Fuller Mill Creek (2 cabins) and the Lakeview tract (95) are presently in progress. Electronic copies of these completed assessment reports have been requested and will be made available once received.

In Lieu Lot Pilot Project The group then had a discussion of criteria which might be used to assess the neighborhood acceptability of possible In-Lieu lots, the point being to avoid NIMBY problems related to obstructed views, being too close to existing cabins, access and traffic issues with tract roads, and negative impacts on utilities, particularly water. Roy also shared the official tract maps for all tracts on the forest which show not only existing cabins but also the potential in-lieu lots. These have all been scanned and will be made available to each tract's representatives on request.

Reconsidering the Cabin Coalition's Organization – Roy pointed out (again) that he will organize the April Coalition meeting and then a successor will be needed to take over as Moderator. This position really is not that much work and will not be a life assignment, so send me an email if you're at all interested.

Setting Next Meeting Date -- Our next meeting is tentatively set for April 20, 2019, location and time to be confirmed. And mark your calendar for the National Forest Homeowner annual conference, which will be held in San Diego on May 3-4. Details will be sent along as soon as they are available.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.

Minutes Prepared 11/6/18

Roy Glauthier