



NATIONAL FOREST HOMEOWNERS

"To ensure continued enjoyment of forest homes"

October 2009

Dear Cabin Owner and/or Tract President,

This is an update on our second Cabin Coalition (C2's) efforts on your behalf to fix the Forest Service's cabin fee determination process. We also need your help. Whether you have received your new appraisal already or are still awaiting it, please read on.

Here's what has happened over the last 12 months:

Efforts by the Coalition 2 culminated in a visit by a delegation of NFH officers and Coalition members to Washington D.C. in the last week of September to meet with Congress and the Forest Service. These efforts successfully resulted in the passage by the Senate of a fee moratorium by way of an amendment to the 2010 Forest Service appropriations bill that would prevent 2010 cabin owner fees from increasing over the 2009 fees. The Amendment now must be approved by the House of Representatives in a conference committee with the Senate to decide the final 2010 appropriations bill. This is a big step towards passage of actual fee reform for cabin owners. Substantial work is yet to come. Details about this amendment, its application, future efforts and what you can do can be found on the NFH website.

Our fundraising efforts to date have been effective. The C2 partner organizations, National Forest Homeowners, Mt. Hood Forest Homeowners Association, Oregon Forest Homeowners Association, Lake Wenatchee Summer Homeowners Association, Sawtooth Forest Cabin Owners Association, Priest Lake Permittees Association, American Land Rights Association and Washington State Forest Homeowners Association, have contributed \$47,000 toward the CUFFA effort to date. An additional \$83,724 has been raised through the generous giving of NFH tracts and individual cabin owners.

With these funds, C2 has successfully conducted alternative appraisals, retained legal counsel, maintained a presence in Washington D.C. to advocate for our cause, traveled to cabin tracts for informational meetings, flown to Washington to meet with legislators, conducted numerous meetings via conference call, and accomplished other CUFFA-related outreach.

Geoffrey Anderson

President

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Of the 14,000 cabin owners in the United States, NFH members and nonmembers alike have donated to the C2 effort. Many of these gifts from cabin owners have been in addition to generous gifts from their member tracts. Dollar amounts have ranged from \$25 to \$6,400.

The goals of the Cabin Coalition in the coming six months are:

- 1) Continue to maintain a positive relationship with the Forest Service regarding the Recreation Residence Program.
- 2) Draft and have introduced in Congress legislation to establish the promising new and fair fee setting process developed by the Cabin Coalition (for an explanation of this new proposal, see the NFH website).
- 3) Explain to Congress in formal hearings and in personal meetings the benefits of this proposed fee setting process and why it should be enacted into law.

This will involve working with political consultants, legal advisors, appraisers and other professional experts, and organizing outreach to permittees and key legislators to prepare for hearings on CUFFA and the new fee setting proposal. As you might imagine this will be expensive work. We need to conduct a second phase of our C2 fundraising effort. And a third phase may be necessary if we ultimately have to resort to litigation.

Finally, here is how you can help:

The Cabin Coalition needs your financial support *now*. We anticipate that \$100,000 in new expenses will be incurred over the next six months to tackle CUFFA reform if we are to be successful. In order to secure this kind of funding, our request is that our member tracts consider a donation of \$1,000 and cabin owners an additional \$200 per cabin. Some can give more than this, some not as much. But this has been identified as the necessary threshold to be fully effective.

If your tract or cabin has not donated, please consider doing so now. **Checks** should be sent to **NFH, at 541 W. Santa Clara, Ave., Santa Ana CA 92706** and "C2" should be noted on the check. Sorry, the donation is not tax-deductible.

If you have already donated, thank you. You have helped us accomplish much over the past year. If you are in a position to make an additional gift at this time, and many of us are, it will be a great help and encouragement.

Time is of the essence. We recognize that each of us has serious competing economic needs. Nevertheless, the issues confronting us as cabin owners today go to the very heart of our ability to remain in the Recreation Residence Program going forward. This compels us to ask for your help now.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our cabin program.

Sincerely,

Geoff Anderson

President, National Forest Homeowners

P.S. Please visit our website, www.nationalforesthomeowners.org, for details and updates on our efforts on your behalf.