

News Release
USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
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Effective Immediately

BEAR DAMAGES FACILITIES AT FLORIDA STATION
Four Buildings Sustain Damage Over Three Nights

TUCSON, AZ (June 9, 2010) – Four buildings at Florida Station, located on the Nogales Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest, sustained damage on three successive nights between June 4 and 7, 2010. A bear entered enclosed porches to access a freezer and fish emulsion fertilizer. It also reentered one of the porches to return to a freezer, and entered a dwelling to access the refrigerator and freezer. Doorways, cabinets, blinds, personal items and a gate were damaged. Windows were broken and screens ripped. Porches and rooms were left in disarray.

Florida Station, also known as Florida Work Center, serves as headquarters for the University of Arizona Santa Rita Experimental Range (SRER). Research on the range is conducted on livestock grazing, wildlife, and ecology.

Following the third night of the bear's intrusions, the SRER Range Manager, who resides at the station, reported the behavior and damage to the Arizona Game and Fish Department for assistance with a solution to an escalating problem.

Visitors to public lands are advised black bears are common in many settings, and should display avoidance behavior toward humans. Potential conflicts with black bears include public safety concerns and possible property damage. Most conflicts arise when bears are drawn to humans by food and garbage. Recreationists are reminded to be "bear aware," and avoid contact with bears. For more information on the Bear Aware program, please refer to the following link: <http://www.centerforwildlifeinformation.org/BeBearAware/bebearaware.html> .