

News Release
USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
300 West Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701
www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado



Effective Immediately

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AGING FACILITIES TO BE REMOVED FROM RECREATION SITES
Areas will Remain Open for Use

TUCSON, AZ (July 23, 2008) – In response to safety concerns and changing recreation demands on the Coronado National Forest, some facilities are being removed from underutilized recreation sites on the Santa Catalina Ranger District. Facilities which are unsafe, unserviceable, redundant, or rarely used will be removed.

Items proposed for removal in 2008 include the restroom and picnic sites at Sykes Knob Picnic Area, the restroom at Mt. Bigelow Electronic Site, seven picnic sites in Cactus Picnic Area, and the picnic sites at Sabino Canyon Group site.

“Visitor use patterns have changed over time,” said Acting Santa Catalina District Ranger Stan Helin. “For example, in the days when you could drive your car into Sabino Canyon, many people would drive in and have picnics. That is no longer the case. Facilities at Mt. Bigelow and Sykes Knob haven’t been used for years. Taxpayer dollars could find better uses than to maintain these areas.”

The changes are being made to lower operations and maintenance costs, save taxpayer dollars, and retire deferred maintenance of the sites. Public safety was a primary decision factor, as many facilities are aging, causing serious safety concerns. The sites will remain open to the public (except during demolition work). Upon completion, they will offer opportunities for dispersed recreation.

This action is part of the Recreation Facility Analysis study being conducted on the Coronado and other national forests across the country. More information can be found at www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/rfa, or by calling (520) 388-8300. Written comments may be submitted through August 15, 2008 by the following methods:

- Email to southwest-comments-coronado@fs.fed.us (Place “RFA” in the subject line.)
- FAX comments to (520) 388-8305 (ATTN: RFA)
- Mail comments to Coronado National Forest, 300 W. Congress St. Tucson, AZ 85701 (ATTN: RFA)