

South Rim Ranch Property Owner Association

June 11, 2007

Letter from the President

Dear Property Owners,

There have been several recent developments on our ranch that I want all property owners to be aware of. The first of these is the fire that occurred on the north east side of Hawkeye Circle several weeks ago. This fire was initiated by a lightning strike and burned for about four hours. Ten of our neighbors responded to the scene with shovels and a chain saw. They fought the fire for more than three hours before the arrival of the Tusayan and Valle-Wood the fire departments. The following afternoon the fire erupted again and the Valle-Wood VFD responded for a second time.

Private property rural areas of Coconino County, Arizona do not have taxpayer funded fire department support. The closest staffed fire departments are located in Tusayan (24 miles north of South Rim Ranch) and the Valle-Wood Volunteer Fire Department located in Valle Junction (6 miles southwest of the ranch). The response time for fire department support for structural or wildfires can be up to three hours from the time a call in placed to 911 to the time that a fire department asset and crew is on site. These fire departments charge for their services.

During our May POA meeting the Board of Directors and association Officers voted in favor of creating our own wildfire fighting capability as a means of providing a first response to a wildfire on the ranch in advance of the arrival of professional firefighters. The concept of this capability would include procurement of two towable firefighting water trailers with gas powered pumps and fire hoses, along with shovels, hoes, axes, gloves, and hard hats to equip a crew of four firefighters per trailer. If we had a firefighting trailer onsite at the Hawkeye Circle fire we could have put it out ourselves.

We are currently gathering pricing information on the equipment, developing an operating procedure, soliciting volunteer firefighters, and making inquiries about personnel training prior to the June POA meeting so that the board and officers can make the decision to authorize funding.

The second subject I would like to address is the road maintenance. Starting 11 June we will be installing two culverts at the intersections of Roper Circle and South Rim Ranch Road along with laying ciders and gravel on the road surface. This work will eliminate the flooding and road washout that has occurred in this area in the past. We will also gravel over the culvert installed last year on Indian Meadows Road. There has been some recent road grading to smooth the wash boards on South Rim Ranch Road. This grading will not last long due to the dry conditions we are currently experiencing. The wind and traffic cause the dirt to blow away and the wash boards return after just a few days.

During the annual meeting Jim Smith of the Road Committee outlined in detail the work that was planned for CY2007. A large part of this work is the grading and laying of gravel on critical areas of all ranch roads and the continuation of the multi-year project of laying gravel on South Rim Ranch Road from Hwy 64 to Hwy 180 and then south to Lasso Loop.

For 2007 we will be spending 80%-85% of our annual dues on the roads. A critical component to successful road maintenance is the dependence on our Road Committee volunteers. Our association has close to 400 members but only two people have volunteered to serve on the Road Committee. These unpaid volunteers provide contractor supervision during road work, remove trees that blow down on the roads, inspect road surfaces, culverts, and diversion ditches on 70 plus miles of ranch roads. Most importantly, they develop prioritized recommendations and cost estimates for road maintenance and then present these at the monthly POA meetings. Any and all help is welcome. Please contact Jim Smith or myself if you wish to volunteer.

Our next POA meeting is 23 June 2007

Cheers,

Rich Felter
SRR POA President
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