

The

# Mt. Lemmon Echoes



## Homeowner's Board questions \$4 User Fee Plan

We, the members of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Board of Directors, have serious reservations and unanswered questions about the Forest Service's recent announcement to implement a \$4 per car user fee for the Mt. Lemmon highway.

Our concerns are as follows:

*Will* a user fee collection really generate enough funds to pay for the initial design and construction of the collection booth, and pay for personnel, transportation, security and supervision?

*If* the User Fee generates enough funds to cover or even gain a surplus of funds, will Congress then cut the federal appropriation to our area?

*With* only one collection booth and one attendant checking all cars at Molino Basin, how will long lines of paying cars, residents, employees, Trico, US West and other service people with passes be accommodated when temperatures and temps reach 100+?

*Will* the school bus, mail truck, Forest Service and emergency vehicles be allowed to get by the long lines since there is to be no additional lane built?

*If* a bypass lane somehow becomes available, then who will be allowed to use it?

*What* will long lines of idling cars do to the air quality at Molino Basin?

*If* the User Fee is collected only during certain hours, won't this cause higher traffic use during the off hours?

*Wouldn't* it be more fair and equitable to collect or increase fees at individual Forest Service sites such as trail heads, campgrounds and picnic areas?

*Since* these Fees are to be imposed upon the general visiting public, wouldn't it be fair to have a portion of these Fees distributed to the Village which is the destination of many of the users? Fees could be used for such things as public toilets, litter barrels, water fountains & faucets, fire, rescue and road maintenance.

*Is* this Fee a precedent for other fees to be imposed upon recreation such as "Teaming with Wildlife" tax now being considered?

## Letter From Senator McCain RE User Fee:

July 22, 1996

Mr. Jack Ward Thomas

Chief,

Forest Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Auditors Building

201 14th Street, S.W. at Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am writing to share my thoughts and concerns about the recently implemented recreational fee increase at Forest Service "demonstration projects" around the nation including Arizona. While I understand the need for additional resources to fund operation and maintenance costs in our national forests during these tight fiscal times and that the Omnibus Consolidated

Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 directed the Forest Service to implement a fee demonstration program, any new fee increases must be reasonable and fair to those who pay the bill. I am sure you also can agree that these fee increases must not be imposed in a capricious or arbitrary manner.

In deciding how and where to place fees, I believe three criteria should be met: 1) extensive public comment concerning both the fairness and level of fees and the benefits and services to be provided by the additional revenues the fees generate; 2) fees must not exceed the amount needed to specifically serve the paying population; and 3) any funds raised must be used for necessary services that otherwise would not be provided to those who pay the fee. Unless some minimum criteria are met before fees are imposed, I do not see how we can assure the American public that the decision to increase fees at a particular site was made in a fair and considered manner.

I know that you have stated that the Forest Service wants to hear from the public about individual projects or sites to determine whether there is support for these new fees. In that regard, I believe it is important to provide the opportunity for public comment before new fees are imposed at individual sites, not after they have been imposed. Please let me know what criteria, if any, were met before the Forest Service imposed the recent fee increases around the nation and specifically in Arizona. I would also appreciate knowing whether the Forest Service has permitted public comment at any of the sites where fee increases have been imposed. Finally, I would like to know precisely what steps the Forest Service has taken to ensure that these new fees are fair to the paying population, consistent with existing laws, regulations and ethical guidelines.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,  
John McCain,  
United States Senator

**Since these Fees are to be imposed upon the general visiting public, wouldn't it be fair to have a portion of these Fees distributed to the Village which is the destination of many of the users? Fees could be used for such things as public toilets, litter barrels, water fountains & faucets, fire, rescue and road maintenance.**

*In deciding how and where to place fees, I believe three criteria should be met:*

- 1) extensive public comment concerning both the fairness and level of fees and the benefits and services to be provided by the additional revenues the fees generate;*
- 2) fees must not exceed the amount needed to specifically serve the paying population; and*
- 3) any funds raised must be used for necessary services that otherwise would not be provided to those who pay the fee.*

## The question was raised by the Tucson Citizen editors about the

legality of the Federal Government charging a fee over a county maintained road. Maintaining unfettered access to private property on Mt. Lemmon is another legal issue in question. As of this writing the private property owner will receive only 2 passes (no matter how many properties you own or how many family members you have) and any guests will have to pay to visit you. The \$4 fee amount was determined without the benefit of a public hearing or public input. Senator McCain stated that the fee must not exceed the amount needed to serve the paying population in the area.

Tom Quinn, Santa Catalina District Ranger, commented that if the Forest Service was seeking cost recovery from users, the fee could be as high as \$25. A traffic counter found that 400,000 cars drove up the Catalina Highway last year. There was no count of bicycles. A \$2 fee would be charged to bicycles (2 wheels. \$2 ... however, that logic does not apply toward motorcycles - they will pay a \$4 fee). If you have a comment or opinion, please forward that comment to a Senator or Congressman. It was a congressional bill signed by the president that brought this fee to life and it will take an act of congress to change it.

# Bear Policies Questioned

*Excerpt of a letter written by a Mt. Lemmon resident out of sheer frustration requesting Arizona Game and Fish Department revise their policy regarding the relocation of bears in the state of Arizona*

The 16 year old girl that was viciously mauled by a black bear on July 26, 1996 suffered injuries far greater than most people are aware of. In deference to the family's wishes for privacy, I will spare you the gory details, but I can tell you that, while she recovers she will be scarred for life- both physically and emotionally. The worst part is that this was avoidable.

The incidents involving humans and aggressive bear encounters on Mt. Lemmon are too numerous to mention. Up until now most Tucson residents and visitors to Mt. Lemmon (a popular recreation area, frequented by more than a million people each year and boasting about 700 cabins either occupying Forest Service or private land) were not aware of the seriousness of the situation. There were literally bears *everywhere*, and Game

and Fish were fully aware of their presence. As the severity of the bear problem increased, several Mt. Lemmon residents questioned Game and Fish personnel about the prior release of several bears on the mountain that had taken place in 1986. Were these problem bears relocated here from elsewhere? Why were they brought here and released in the first place? Many Game and Fish officials denied any knowledge of this release and stated that there have always been bears on the mountain.

Recently, bears no longer fearing the presence of humans were stealing food from barbecue grills and picnic tables, routinely walking into homes and businesses on Mt. Lemmon and invading the campgrounds on a regular basis. Complaints about the overpopulation of bears were typically addressed by Game and Fish with an *admonition* to homeowners, campers and picnickers on the dangers of feeding the bears and with *further* instructions as to how to bear proof their homes and campsites, rather than attempting to "thin out" the bear population. Game and Fish officials have consistently pointed the finger at people feeding the bears and have somehow managed to brainwash the public into believing that the bear problem is *entirely* the fault of humans! Please understand that I do feel it is *irresponsible* for anyone to *deliberately* feed bears and that they should be held accountable according to the law, but this is only a small part of a much larger problem - bear population control and management.

It took Game and Fish field officers ten days to relocate three bears (the mother and 2 cubs) that had broken into the cabin in the photograph (see photo next page). Ironically, the 3 bears were darted and relocated the day after Game and Fish were able to videotape a homeowner deliberately feeding the bears. (After this last horrendous mauling occurred, it took field officers seven days to trap and relocate approximately ten bears!) I wondered if finding a scapegoat had been their agenda all along—collect evidence of deliberate bear-feeding and protect people and property by trapping the bears, second.

Now that several bears have been relocated, we are still concerned that these bears will either: (1) Return to Mt. Lemmon (2) Cause similar problems for others around the area in which they have been released. However, when asked, Game and Fish officials will NOT release any accurate or detailed information as to WHERE they are being released. We were under the impression, that the Freedom

**Mail your opinions, concerns, and comments to your elected officials:**

### Representatives :

**Jim Kolbe**

**1661 N. Swan Rd  
Tucson, Az. 85712**

**Ed Pastor,**

**2424 E Broadway  
Tucson AZ. 85719**

### Senators:

**Jon Kyle**

**7315 N Oracle Rd  
Tucson, Az. 85704**

**John McCain**

**450 W Paseo Redondo,  
Tucson, Az 85701**

*It took Game and Fish field officers ten days to relocate three bears (the mother and 2 cubs) that had broken into the cabin in the photograph*



of Information Act and the Arizona Public Records law entitled the citizens of this country to information of this nature. Is Game and Fish immune from this mandate?

While a few Game and Fish Officials may seem somewhat sympathetic to our frustrations, they have been either unable or unwilling to take any drastic action with regards to this situation. I am aware of the pressure that is put on government agencies by activist groups such as the "Bear Coalition" and the like. Mt. Lemmon residents, campers and picnickers are not organized and many are intimidated by these vocal extremist groups. Is Game and Fish intimidated, as well? Have they truly been following "protocol" or is this a case of the "fox guarding the henhouse"? Have bear and animal rights become more important in Arizona than the safety of our citizens? Or, has the fear of NOT being "politically correct" paralyzed the Arizona Game and Fish Department and prevented them from "thinning out" the bear population and destroying bears that are fearless of humans and pose a threat to the human population?

Now, it appears as though Game and Fish will spend a few more days on Mt. Lemmon with bear traps and then they will leave - confident that the public is pleased with their efforts.

Unfortunately, the removal of these bears is *only* a "temporary fix". I have spoken to Yellowstone National Park Game and Fish officials. They said that, yes, indeed - most relocated bears usually return and that, those few that do not return, will cause similar problems elsewhere ("once a garbage bear, always a garbage bear"). I was told that simply trapping and relocating these bears cures the symptoms, NOT the problem.

It does not require a bear biologist to conclude that the bears still existing on Mt. Lemmon will reproduce and undoubtedly be back in Summerhaven, the campgrounds and picnic areas the next time Arizona experiences a "dry" season, causing a shortage of food for the bears. This, coupled with the fact that we should probably expect the relocated bears to return to the mountain, leads to the obvious conclusion that the bear overpopulation issue on Mt. Lemmon is not over. The focus of the Game and Fish policy must be one that protects our citizens as well as bears. Initially, any returning "relocated" bears must be destroyed at the first sign of nuisance behavior, regardless of the pressures put on Game and Fish by the Bear Coalition and other such activist groups. Early intervention (investigation and follow-up on all reports of bear encounters) must be investigated, including immediate relocation of bears who are nuisance bears (damage property; bluff charge humans, harass campers and picnickers, etc.) *at the first offense*, to prevent these bears from becoming "garbage bears" and learning aggressive behavior in their search for food. Redefining certain types of bear behaviors, similar to those utilized at Yellowstone National Park ("habituated" vs. "food conditioned bears"), must be instituted and adhered to by *impartial* Game and Fish field officers. An intensive campaign for public education on the dangers inherent in feeding the bears and the consequences for those who do, as well as educating every person, visiting or residing on Mt. Lemmon as to the proper disposal of trash and other "bear attractants", must be initiated, as well. Basically, we must permanently rid the area of any bears that are nuisance bears early on; change existing policy and protocol regarding bear management; and educate the public. Only in this way can Game and Fish start with a clean slate and assure the public that this scenario will not repeat itself in the future. While I am not knowledgeable about the hierarchy of state agencies such as the Game and Fish Department, by all appearances they answer to NO

one. I fear that our requests for change will be ignored and this will be a recurring problem. This cavalier attitude concerning the presence of too many bears in too small of an area nearly cost a very brave and beautiful young girl her life—a tragedy which we simply can NOT allow to happen again. Please help us in our endeavors to change a situation that has gotten out of control.

Respectfully,  
A Mt. Lemmon Homeowner

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Report **ANY** bear sightings! Contact Arizona Game & Fish 628-5376 or 1-800-352-0700.

## Excerpts of Game and Fish quotes in August 4th Arizona Daily Star article

titled "Officials shuffle 'problem bears' to other sites, including Catalinas" that "in the three year period from 1985 to 1988, we (Game and Fish) brought a total of 7 bears in from other areas and put them in the Catalinas" said Pat O'Brien, spokesperson for Arizona Game and Fish. "Some of them (the bears) came from eastern Arizona and some from the Grahams. The Graham bears were probably campground bears (bears that loot camp grounds for food and damage property). If you look at our relocation efforts, there's probably no place with bear habitat that bears haven't been moved from, or to, over the course of time. If you have a bear problem on the Catalinas, you take them to the Grahams. If you have a bear problem on the Grahams, you take them to the Catalinas. The only alternative is to destroy the bear." The article also stated that wildlife officials say they only have sketchy information on long term population trends of black bears in the Catalinas. In this article, the words used by Game and Fish for the basis of decisions concerning the black bear in the Catalinas include "estimates, sketchy information and probability".

\*\*\*\*\*  
The Catalinas are visited by a million people a year. If even half that number of people visits the campground and picnic areas in the Catalinas, what would a reasonable person assume would be the risk of a person and just one "campground bear" coming in contact with each other? What if there are 20 "campground bears" in the Catalinas? What do you think the response of Game and Fish should be? We tried to find out where the "campground bears" were "shuffled to", and were unable to get an official answer from Arizona Game and Fish. Wouldn't it be fair to other campground area visitors around the state to be forewarned about the "relocated problem bears" before other young campers are injured or property is damaged?

**Report any bear sightings to Arizona Game & Fish 628-5376 or 1-800-352-0700.**



## Birds & Bees, Flowers & Trees

by Sheri Lee

Something nobody is telling you is there are still *at least four* more problem bears roaming around among the cabins. This is where your help is needed ... if you even see a bear, call Game & Fish. The folks there have to be told over and over again that you really do care about having all the "corrupted" bears removed. "Good" bears you'll never see. They're out doing their "real" bear thing deep in the woods. Oh sure, you might glimpse one while on a hike 'way out in the wilderness, but you won't see a "real" bear brazenly walking around your cabin or the Village.

Here's something else to wonder and worry about ... if the big bad bear that went berserk at the 4H Camp was the only male around, and supposedly attracted to our area by all the females, then is he going to be the father of all the next batch of cubs? Might some of those cubs not carry the same "bad gene" that caused the big bad bear to go berserk? Since the mothers of those cubs are already "corrupted" and will be teaching their offspring to misbehave in the same manner, won't Game & Fish be "shuffling" those cubs right back to Mt. Lemmon in a couple of years? When will the "bad" bear problem end? Is this "reshuffling" going to go on forever? Yes, if we let it. Mt. Lemmon only has room for the "good" bears, the kind we never see.

I am hearing of cabin owners, especially with small children or grandchildren, bringing along their big guns when they come up and making

such statements as "If I even so much as see a bear around my cabin, I'll kill it and worry about the consequences later". The people are both nervous and angry. It is too bad Game & Fish forced it to come to this.

And then I can see a potential problem with the deer. All of a sudden this summer we are seeing more deer up close and personal. A pair stood in my driveway the other day while I drove in, parked and got out and went into the cabin. All the while they remained maybe just thirty feet away and watched. Are the tourists going to be feeding our deer next? Perhaps they already are and that is why the deer are becoming fearless.

Deer can be vicious too. Several had to be killed at the Grand Canyon in recent years because they were attacking and injuring people with their sharp front hoofs. They attacked because they expected to be fed.

Wildlife is nice, but only as long as it remains wild! Remember the Good Old Days when the worst we had to worry about was raccoons?



Feeding Methods Important to Bird Health.  
By Brad Brockman,  
owner of Wild Birds Unlimited

Backyard birdfeeding is a very popular hobby, second only to gardening, in the United States. Due to the popularity of birdfeeding in our area, the question often arises in the Spring and Summer months of the danger of feeding and providing water for wild birds due to the potential spread of avian disease. Concern is heightened in the Summer when high temperatures can allow disease to remain active and stagnant water can harbor some disease varieties. "In the number of years we have been in business, we have had maybe one mention of diseased birds a year compared to daily mentions of birds hitting windows. Often individuals who feed the birds do not receive complete and accurate information on the prevalence of bird disease or how to safely offer food and water to the birds."

explained Brad Brockman, the owner of the Wild Birds Unlimited store located at 5615 East River Road in Tucson. "We feel it is essential for those who enjoy the hobby of backyard feeding to understand the importance of employing proper feeding methods to promote bird health."

#### The Facts:

The complete picture of bird mortality in our backyards is rarely examined. Surprisingly, disease ranks nowhere near the top of the list of causes. A 1992 study conducted by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology concluded that 51% of bird deaths were caused by window strikes. Predation, predominately by household cats, caused 36% of bird deaths. Disease caused only 11% of bird deaths in our backyards. Of the diseases that affect our feathered friends, an avian form of Salmoneus is the most common and is spread through the bird's droppings. Wild Birds Unlimited's advice is to avoid broadcasting (scattering) seed on the ground. Broadcasting seed encourages a larger number of birds to feed in relatively small locations, thereby increasing the concentration of droppings.

Trichomoniasis, an avian disease that renders the birds unable to swallow, is less common at our feeders. Trichomoniasis lives only seconds outside a bird's body, but can survive for hours in water. Therefore, the greatest facilitator of Trichomoniasis spreading is standing water, not seed. "Water sources provided by conscientious individuals are normally going to be far cleaner and healthier than the sparse, stagnant and most likely contaminated natural puddles or ponds found in the desert," stated Brockman.

Wild Birds Unlimited's advice: Change birdbath water daily. Scrub the bath with a brush and a mixture of one part bleach and nine parts water biweekly. If possible, use a dripper or mister when offering water to the birds. Also, since Doves and Pigeons are ground-feeding birds and are the greatest carriers of Trichomoniasis, broadcasting seed on the ground should be avoided. Other Feeding and Cleaning Tips: Keep seed clean and dry. Offer only fresh seed. Dry rake or use other methods to keep the area around feeder clean. Provide seeds from a feeder rather than broadcasting/ scattering seed on the ground.

Provide multiple feeding stations in different areas of your yard to disperse bird activity.

If possible, move your feeding stations periodically, so there will be less of a concentration of bird droppings. If you find several dead birds around the

feeder, stop feeding for at least two weeks and disinfect the feeders with a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water.

"Whether we live in the and southwest or wet New England states, people can take steps to improve conditions for wildlife by improving the habitat around our homes and in our communities. providing food and cover help meet the day to day needs of songbirds and other backyard wildlife. Birdfeeding is an excellent way to bring birds closer to our lives while giving them the edge during times of heat, drought and other difficult natural feeding conditions. Accompanying birdfeeding, however, comes responsibility for those of us who feed birds," explained National Wildlife Federation Chief Naturalist Craig Tufts. "If feeders and feeding areas are not carefully maintained, it is possible that the number of birds infected by bacteria, fungal disease and protozoa can increase, resulting in mortality. Keeping food off the ground, providing appropriate high quality seeds and other foods in sturdy feeders that are easy to clean will greatly assist you in meeting your responsibility. As with food, water sources should be kept clean and fresh on a regular basis. In certain parts of the United States, it may be necessary to provide water through a drip device or mister so that standing water does not provide harborage for the Trichomoniasis protozoan."

Rick Bonney, Director of Education at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology stated, "Take care while feeding the birds and you shouldn't encounter any problems. Follow the recommendations provided for you by Wild Birds Unlimited. Simply keep your feeders and birdbaths clean - and enjoy watching the birds." According to the National Biological Service, National Wildlife Health Center, "Just because birdfeeding is not problem-free does not mean that it is bad or should be stopped. It does mean you have an ethical obligation not to jeopardize wild birds. What is called for is intelligent birdfeeding."

"When you provide the birds with food and water, you must think of yourself as the owner of a restaurant. You always want to properly prepare the food and beverages so your customers enjoy their meal, do not get sick and will return to your restaurant," explained Brockman. "When we feed the birds, they are our customers. We need to use safe and smart feeding methods to keep the birds healthy, happy and coming back for more." Anyone with questions about "intelligent bird-feeding" to promote bird health is

encouraged to stop by or call the Certified Birdfeeding Specialists at Wild Birds Unlimited.

Tufts summarizes, "Birdfeeding is one of the very best ways that we can learn about the wildlife with which we share the Earth. Practiced in a responsible manner, birds and people benefit equally."

Wild Birds Unlimited, located in Tucson, Arizona, is locally owned and operated and part of the original and largest franchise system of backyard birdfeeding and nature specialty stores with over 200 locations throughout the United States and Canada. Wild Birds Unlimited specializes in expert information and offers an exclusive line of products designed specifically for the hobby of backyard birdfeeding.



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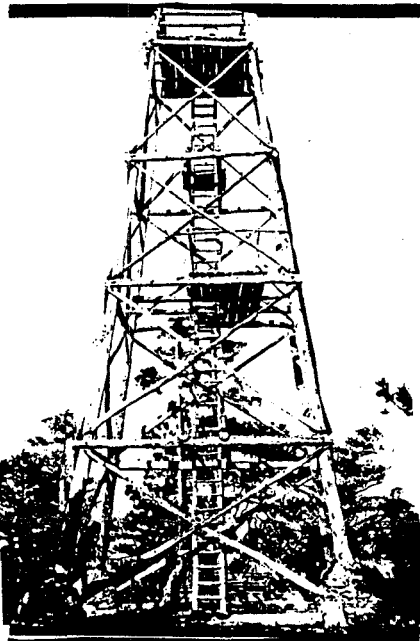
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# Lookout!

By Suzanne Hensel

*The first Bigelow tower constructed in 1916. PHOTO Courtesy of Coronado National Forest*



As everyone knows, this summer has been exceptionally dry. The forest surrounding our homes is still dangerously dry. Of course this isn't the first time the Catalinas have been faced with extreme fire danger, and certainly won't be the last. This has been a concern since the late 1800's, when people first starting living in these mountains. By the early 1900's the Forest Service began to take positive steps towards preventing large, devastating fires. They began by building two lookout areas, one on Mt. Lemmon and the other on Mt. Bigelow. Countless fires have been found from these high perches in the pines since they were first established over 80 years ago.

In 1913, a pine pole tower, about 25 feet high, was built on the very top of Mt. Lemmon by Jim Westfall and a man by the name of Sigfried. A small, one room cabin was also built nearby for the fire guards to stay in.

Summer residents often went for day hikes from Soldier Camp or Summerhaven to the top of the mountain, and over to the lookout cabin. Once there, they would lay out a large

feast and enjoy the view from above.

In 1934, the old pine tower was replaced by the Lemmon Rock lookout that is there today. This new lookout was primarily constructed by the CCC. Gilbert Sykes, the ranger at that time, and Francis Knagge placed copper wire on the house to ground lightning strikes. When they ran out of wire, Sykes sent Knagge to remove some from the old tower. That night a heavy lightning storm struck the old tower, destroying it. Apparently the old copper wire had been protecting the tower quite well for the past 21 years. It didn't last a night without it. Today the "new" Lemmon Rock lookout is over 60 years old. Things have changed a little since it was first constructed, but the one thing that hasn't changed is the spectacular view of Tucson and the Catalinas. It is breathtaking, but then so is the thunder and lightning that flash and shake the small, one room house when a storm is directly over Lemmon Rock. During fire season, from about May to August (depending on precipitation), a Forest Service volunteer lives at Lemmon Rock, searching for smoke in the Catalinas and other nearby mountain ranges.

In an attempt to view a portion of the Catalinas that is not visible from Mt. Lemmon, a wooden platform was built on Kellogg Peak, southeast of Bigelow. Apparently that wasn't good enough and in 1916 a lookout was constructed on Mt. Bigelow.

The original Bigelow tower was made from pine poles in 1916 by, who else, Jim Westfall. He was assisted by Henry Hiller. In 1917, the new pine tower was

dedicated. Summer residents and dignitaries walked up for the ceremony from Soldier Camp.


In 1919, Gilbert Sykes, just beginning his Forest Service career, was stationed there as forest guard, and he painted it. Gilbert was not as fortunate as his brother Glenton, who was manning the Mt. Lemmon lookout that same summer. Gilbert did not have a cabin to live in. Instead, he constructed a dugout close to a nearby spring. Its roof was made from slabs of Douglas fir bark.

The nearby Boy Scout camp would take day hikes up to the tower. Those who dared, would climb the ladder up to the top of the lookout. If a scout was a light weight, and it was windy, the leaders would tie a rope around him so he wouldn't blow away. The brave boys who conquered this challenge received a special card that said they were a member of the squirrel club.

In 1934, the pine tower was replaced by a steel one constructed by the CCC. In order to haul in supplies for this project, the workers cleared, by hand, the first road to Mt. Bigelow. Prior to that time a narrow trail was used to access the tower. In the 1950's, the tower was replaced, this time by the Forest Service. They constructed a larger steel building. Today, lookout personnel are stationed at Mt. Bigelow during lightning storms and when conditions are extremely dry.

The Catalinas' two lookouts, by locating fires when they are small, have saved countless acres from burning. They may be old-fashioned, but they are indispensable.

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## 100 Year Water Management Plan for Mt. Lemmon Cooperative Water Co

### Executive Summary:

The Summerhaven area is unique. A permanent year round population of over seventy persons grows to a summer weekend resident population of over 1,000 persons. The average rainfall is 30 to 35 inches which is almost three times that of the desert below while the summer and winter temperatures average 30 to 40 degrees lower. The Catalina Forest District is visited by 3,000,000 people annually with many tourists visiting Summerhaven. Many visitors are simply cooling off while others are attracted to the diversity of the animals and habitat.

Water demand will continue to grow over the next 60 years within the Summerhaven and Mt. Lemmon area as the number of customers double. The Mt. Lemmon Cooperative Water Company, Inc. will effectively manage Mt.

Lemmon's water resources and provide safe reliable water at a reasonable rate while protecting Sabino Creek through the promotion of water conservation. The Water Cooperative has devised a 100 year plan to address these needs. The plan takes into account historic usage and future conservation efforts. Future water usage will almost double from 7,000,000 gallons a year to 12,000,000 gallons a year. Improvements to the system will reduce leakage to 20%. The Water Cooperative's water rights need to be increased by 3,000,000 gallons a year to meet the usage.

The existing storage system is inadequate to meet the present needs of the summer demand and fire suppression needs. There is an immediate need to more efficiently fill the Loma Linda tank and add 1,000,000 gallons of storage to insure a continuous supply to existing customers. There is a long term need to add another 2,000,000 gallons of water storage to meet future needs.

The existing water system is inadequate for transmission, distribution and fire suppression demands. An upgraded

system of water transmission pipes needs to be in place to adequately convey water from source to storage to point of use. Over 3 miles of 6" transmission mains will need to be constructed.

The Water Cooperative will adopt policies and implement development fees with the Arizona Corporation Commission's approval to insure that the cost to existing and future customers are equitable and fair. Existing customers will pay for operating and capital costs through their monthly bills. Future customers will need to match the existing customers investment in the infrastructure by assessment of development fees. The fees will be saved to pay for the additional storage and transmission mains.

The Water Cooperative will work collaboratively with other water users in the Catalina District of the Coronado National Forest to manage the available water resources and financial resources. The Water Cooperative will solicit comment and support from its membership and customers for implementing this plan.

**Introduction :** The Coronado National Forest was established in 1907 and named for the famous 15th century Spanish explorer who was seeking the fabled seven cities of gold. The Catalina Mountains were probably named by Father Kino a Catholic Missionary who visited a nearby Pima Indian camp around 1700. In 1881, a botanist named J. G. Lemmon and his wife Sarah collected specimens in the Catalinas. The highest peak was named Mt. Lemmon in her honor. The Catalina range was used by the US Army at Ft. Lowell as a summer encampment. Subsequent visits by Tucsonans resulted in a cabin and hotel area being developed along Sabino Creek. A subdivision plat was filed on 320 acres of timberland in 1924 which created the Summerhaven area.

The 1990 census portrays a total of 217 residential units occupied by 24 year round residents. The census count shows all residents being less than 65 years of age with 5 less than 18 years of age. The Pima County Assessor's Office describes a total parcel count of 851 with 285 residential properties, 25 rental residential properties and 49 mobile homes for the Mt Lemmon Fire District. The majority of these properties are served by the Mt. Lemmon Water Cooperative. The average full cash value for the residences is \$61,000. The Water Cooperative currently counts 398 customer water connections. For planning purposes it is assumed that there are 375 improved lots being served by the WSW Cooperative and a total of 850 lots that could be served. The mountaintop area of the Catalina's receive approximately 30 to 35 inches of total precipitation during the year. The 1995 total was 28.14 inches. The rainfall is concentrated in the late summer months of August and September. Winter snowfall occurs during January through April.

The Catalina Mountains are unique in both vegetation and life. During the time of the glaciers in North America, the southwest was a cooler and wetter environment. As the glaciers retreated to the north the southwest became warmer and drier. The forest and animal retreated higher into the mountains along with the moist, cool microclimate that they needed for survival. As a result, the plants and animals arranged themselves in such a way that the species that needed the coolest and most moist conditions were located near the peaks and in the valleys. Those plants and animals that required less water and could tolerate more heat were located lower on the mountains and so on. The amazing biodiversity that

results are arranged in life zones or layers of plants and animals in stratus from the valley floor to the mountains. The Catalina mountains are regularly visited by bird watchers seeking the almost 300 species of birds that inhabit the slopes.

The Catalina Mountains are visited by over 3,000,000 persons a year. The cool mountaintops area favorite destination of the residents of Tucson which has a population of 750,000. Over 2,000,000 vehicles drive up the Catalina Highway and an additional 1,000,000 visit Sabino Canyon. The Summerhaven area has the only private visitor facilities on the mountain. There are three restaurants, one hotel, one general store, a bar and numerous overnight accommodations. At the end of Sabino Canyon Rd. is a picnic ground and trail head into the mountains. A short distance up the mountain is the Mt Lemmon Ski Valley with a chair lift, restaurant and snack bar. Because of the diversity and rarity of plants, animals and birds, Mt Lemmon is sought out by visitors from around the world. The Catalina Mountains are a refuge from Tucson's summer heat for families of all incomes.

The land that is within the Mt. Lemmon Water Coop service area is privately owned and consists of the Summerhaven Subdivision, Mount Lemmon I and 2 Subdivisions and the Loma Sabino Pines Subdivision. There are 851 lots of which 375 are developed. The surrounding land is managed by the US Forest Service. Over half of the Catalina Ranger District is managed as wilderness area. Other uses include research facilities at observatories, recreation at organized sites like Rose Canyon Lake and Spencer Canyon or outdoor recreation along the numerous trails.

The US Forest Service operates a visitor center and Ranger Station at Palisades. On nearby Organization Ridge are summer camps for Boy and Girl Scouts and other organizations. The Forest Service also manages two residential cabin areas at Soldier's Camp and Willow Canyon.

Pima County provides sheriff patrol and road maintenance service for the Summerhaven area. In addition Pima County operates a public toilet and Wastewater Treatment Plant in Summerhaven. Pima County is the local authority for plan review and inspection of construction on private property. Pima County manages and operates the Zimmerman Elementary School in Summerhaven. Students in grades 8 to 12 are bused to the Tanque Verde School District or Tucson Unified School district. TRICO, a utility cooperative provides electric power and US West

provides phone service. Propane gas is provided by Amerigas. The Mount Lemmon Fire Dept. provides fire suppression and emergency medical services on the mountain. The Fire Dept. provides 24 hr. a day response to 911 calls within the Fire District.

Next issue: History of the Mt. Lemmon Cooperative Water Co., Inc. This is part of a continuing series by the Mt. Lemmon Water Co-op.



Neil Bloomfield

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*Alpine Lodge*

Mt. Lemmon, Arizona  
in Summerhaven  
602-576-1544

*Food, Spirits & Lodging*

## Highway Update:

The contractor has begun work on the area of milepost 12.7 just below Windy Point. This is a road repair will cause delays. Give yourself a little extra time during the week when driving down the mountain in order to make the line up following the pilot car at milepost 9.6. The wait at milepost 12.7 was 10 minutes on Tuesday morning and 30 seconds on Wednesday afternoon. During the weekends, a stop light has been set up that allows 3 cars through on each change of lights. Remember the Highway Reconstruction Hotline number is 749-3329.



## Schedule of upcoming events:

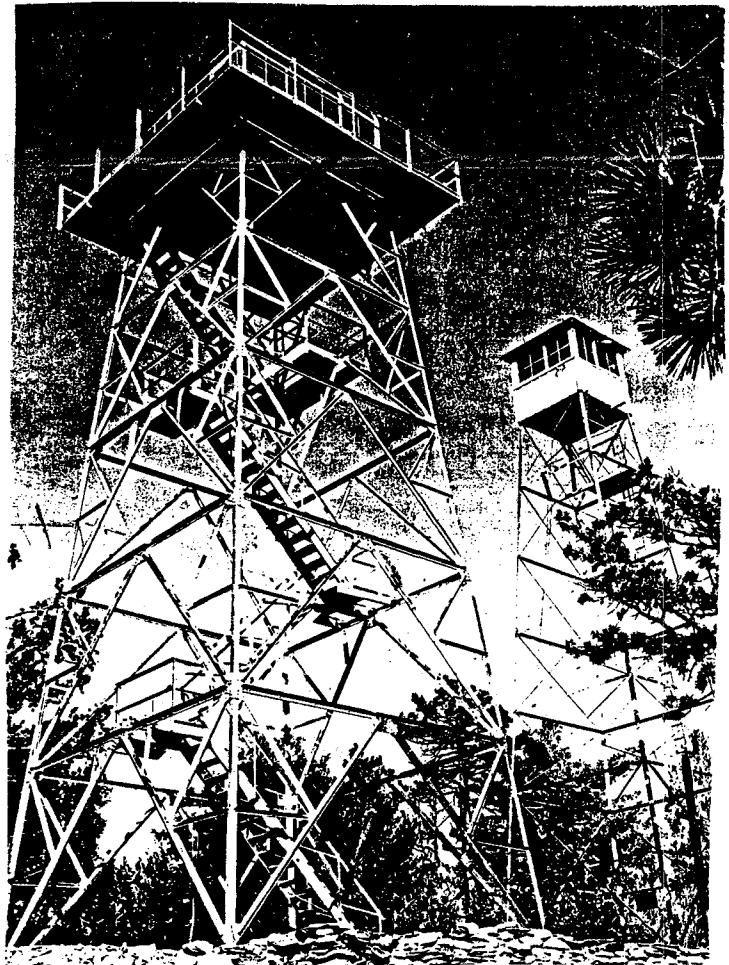
1996

- |                |                       |  |
|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| Sept. 28, 29   | Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley | Octoberfest  |
| October 5, 6   | Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley | Octoberfest  |
| October 12     | 7:30 - 10:30AM        | Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's<br>Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast at the Fire<br>Station (this is a fundraiser for the Mt.<br>Lemmon Fire Department) |
| October 12, 13 | Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley | Octoberfest  |
| November 9     | Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley | Alzheimer's walk -<br>a-thon Benefit ( contact Ski Valley for<br>more details )  |

## Teaming with Wildlife

**Excise Tax** proposed by Congress would place a tax on outdoor recreational equipment (tents, backpacks, canoes, mountain bikes, cameras, guide books, perhaps recreational vehicles, and film) to give to Game and Fish agencies. There is vagueness concerning what constitutes non-essential outdoor recreational equipment, and what projects any taxes would be funded. The proposed tax would be one to three percent. Again, if you have a comment, direct it to your federal congressman.

**M t . L e m m o n**  
**Homeowners Board** is planning a Breakfast fund raiser at the fire station on October 12 - from 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Your donations will be used to buy a needed piece of equipment for the Fire Department. Watch for more information in the September issue of the Echoes!



The tower to the rear was built by the CCC in 1934. The tower to the front was built by the Forest Service in the 1950's. It is the one used today. Photo courtesy Coronado National Forest. Special thanks to Suzanne Hensel for the use of photo.

Robert & Sheri Lee  
5790 E. Territory Avenue  
Tucson, Az 85715



Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Assoc.  
P.O. Box 699  
Mt. Lemmon, Arizona 85619

This Echoes is brought to you courtesy of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association. It is one of the benefits of being a member. Your board members are Fran Crowe, Red Greth, Paul Hawkins, Pete Krauss, Sheri Lee, Dannie Hayhurst, Florence Wilhoite, John Mulay, Fran Zimmerman, Carrie Reitz, Carolyn Autrey, Larry Waldron and Olga Pace. Dannie Hayhurst is publisher and editor of the Echoes.

April 15, 1996  
to May 31, 1996  
AND  
Sept. 22, 1996  
to  
Oct. 11, 1996

6:30AM TO 8:30AM  
8:45AM TO 3:30PM  
3:30PM TO 6:30PM  
6:45PM TO 10:00PM  
10:00PM TO 11:00PM  
11:15PM TO 6:30AM

June 2, 1996 to Sept. 20, 1996  
AND  
Oct. 13, 1996 to Oct. 25, 1996  
AND  
Jan. 5, 1997 to end of project

Dec. 23, 1996 to Jan. 3, 1997

MON  
THRU  
6:30AM  
FRI

OPEN  
WITH NO  
DELAYS

Oct. 27, 1996 to Dec. 20, 1996

6:30AM TO 10:30AM  
10:45AM TO 3:30PM  
3:30PM TO 6:30PM  
6:45PM TO 10:00PM  
10:00PM TO 11:00PM  
11:15PM TO 6:30AM

Every weekend and national holiday\* from Fri. at 6:30AM to 11:00PM Sun.  
\* On national holidays, the road opens at 6:30AM the day before and closes at 11:00PM on the holiday.

**OPEN  
24  
HOURS  
WITH  
NO  
TRAFFIC  
DELAYS  
FRI., SAT.,  
& SUN.**

Road open

Road open with delays of approximately 15 minutes

Road closed