

# NFH NEWS

National Forest Homeowners

Summer 2010 - Volume 25, Number 3

## C2 TO DATE

*By Pete Bailey, NFH Director and  
C2 Legislative Contact chair*

The Cabin Coalition 2 (C2) has had many successes this year and the Cabin Fee Act (H.R. 4888) continues moving its way through Congress. On July 22nd during “mark-up”, H.R. 4888 was passed by the House Natural Resources Committee under their unanimous consent rule. Following that, Cong. Doc Hastings (R-WA), Cong. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Cong. Jim Costa (D-CA) jointly requested a scoring of H.R. 4888 from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). “Scoring” is the process that addresses whether the bill is found to be revenue-neutral relative to CUFFA. The result of this scoring is our next hurdle. It is our strong belief that the Cabin Fee Act is actually revenue-positive compared to CUFFA, but Congress will rely on the CBO for their judgment.

However, if the CBO’s preliminary review finds the bill revenue-negative, C2 will be suggesting some adjustments to the bill’s proposed fee structure. With relatively minor tweaks to tier percentages, and the addition of three intermediate fee tiers (i.e., \$1500, \$2500 and \$3500), C2 believes we can overcome most revenue concerns without compromising overall annual affordability and long-term fee predictability. We can then work towards the passage of the bill.

With a favorable CBO scoring, H.R. 4888 would join other bills ready and waiting for passage as part of a larger Omnibus Lands bill or an Appropriations bill. The most likely time for this to happen would be during a “lame-duck” session of Congress in late fall. Please read Aubrey King’s report on how you can help at the grassroots level to make this happen.

A few positive additions to the bill occurred during mark-up that you should know about. The current appraisal cycle



under CUFFA will be completed, with a three-year deadline, prior to value assignment to CFA fee tiers. In addition, all appraisals will be adjusted for inflation/deflation prior to tier assignment, in consideration of those appraisals done early in the cycle when the real estate market was at its peak. During the transition to CFA fees, a \$4000 cap will be imposed and any overpayments or underpayments caused by CUFFA fees differing from CFA fees will be credited to or debited from cabin owners. A two-year deadline for Forest Service promulgation of the Rules and Regulations that will implement the law was added. And we supported an annual \$500 per cabin Forest Service “fee retention”, designed to more directly fund Forest Service costs to administer the Program. Finally, appeal language was strengthened further.

Cabin owners’ involvement and political engagement from across the country has fueled our successes. We are guardedly optimistic of ultimate success. Please remember that your continued grassroots efforts are essential, now, and until we cross that goal line.



## ON THE BRINK: KEEPING MOMENTUM

Summertime brings us to our cabins to enjoy the forests, mountains and lakes of our national forests. We also have the opportunity to meet new and old friends and interact with the forest communities. August also sees Congress in recess while our Cabin Fee Act, HR 4888, perches, awaiting analysis by the Congressional Budget Office following passage by the Natural Resources Committee of the House. As those appraisals continue to come in, we are reminded of the need to keep working in earnest to assure enactment of a fair fee scheme. Undoubtedly, we have come a long way from almost three years ago, when we learned that CUFFA was not the answer, nor would it be likely that one simple system would “fit all”. Devising a fee scheme that would fit all 14,000 residential residence use permits has proved to be a challenge. The Cabin Fee Act presents such a system in the judgment of the Coalition (C2) participants.

We would not have gotten far with fee reform without the substantial participation and advice of cabin owners and the help of the amazingly skillful people leading the C2 and NFH. This leadership has taken us through the Forest Service headquarters in Washington, D.C.; the halls, offices and even tunnels of Congress; and through countless meetings and teleconferences. When there wasn't room for us in a Congressional office, we met under stairways and in cafeterias, and even shared space in offices with dogs and constituents in native costume. The result: a successful hearing, 26 sponsors of the bipartisan bill, and passage by the Committee following “mark up”. (Participating in markup is a little like having your older brother go over your term paper with you the

midnight before it's due.) All this has occurred while the fee moratorium was still in effect. Congress may be in recess, but we have to keep going.

As explained elsewhere in this newsletter, we await a CBO fiscal analysis, passage by the House, and moving forward in the Senate. (Awaiting CBO scoring is like waiting for your parents to tell you they are sending you off to college with either a new car or a bus pass). Can this be done while the moratorium remains in effect? We hope so, as it is Congress that passed the moratorium in the first place, to give it time to consider new legislation. We're prepared to ask for its extension if necessary. What can you do while we keep knocking on doors in Washington, D.C.?

- Keep informed. Access the NFH website for information and updates.
- Attend tract, association and NFH regional meetings, including the Boise Forum.
- Contact the C2 leadership, regional coordinators and NFH Board members with comments and suggestions.
- Keep those C2 donations coming. They can be made individually or through tract associations.
- Contact or continue to contact your US Representatives and Senators and urge support for the Cabin Fee Act and, if it becomes necessary, a new moratorium.

A list of sponsors and key legislators can be found in the newsletter and on the web. Cabin owner support and encouragement has taken us this far – let's keep it up!

**THE NFH BLOG** Go to the NFH website, [www.nationalforesthowners.org](http://www.nationalforesthowners.org), and click on the box in the middle, right above the President's Message. Share your thoughts!

# WASHINGTON REPORT

Aubrey King | NFH Washington Representative | August 2010



## Cabin Owners Intensify Summer Efforts to Pass Cabin Fee Act

In August and through mid-September, cabin owners throughout the country have intensified their efforts to convince Congress to pass the Cabin Fee Act (CFA), which has been so strongly supported by cabin owners everywhere as a solution to the excessively high fees resulting from the Cabin Users Fee Fairness Act (CUFFA). During this six week period, Congress has been in recess from Washington, D.C., while the Senators and Representatives have been back home for District and State work periods, including meetings with constituents. This presented many cabin owners with opportunities to ask their Members of Congress in person to support the Cabin Fee Act.

Following the recess, Congress will reconvene on Capitol Hill on September 14th with only sixteen legislative days remaining before the targeted adjournment date of October 8th so the Members can return home to campaign for the November elections. Although there will likely be a “lame duck” session following the elections, the agenda for that session will be very crowded and the outlook uncertain. This is why this August/September period is so critical for the cabin owner cause. There simply is not much time left to let Congress know how much cabin owners have at stake and how determined they are to achieve their goals: First, to enact the Cabin Fee Act; second, if that cannot be done this year, to extend the moratorium on cabin fee increases for 2011.

The CFA (H.R. 4888 in the U.S. House of Representatives) has been well received in Congress and moved at a rapid pace since its introduction in March, with a successful April 22nd hearing by the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, and then full Natural Resources Committee approval on July 22nd. Now Congress and cabin owners are awaiting a report on the budget impact of the CFA from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). A CBO finding that legislation will not have a negative impact on the budget is a prerequisite for final passage of any bill by Congress. The necessary letter requesting this CBO analysis was co-signed by Representatives Doc Hastings (R-WA), who has been the chief Congressional champion of the CFA; Jim Costa (D-CA); and Peter DeFazio (D-OR). Timing will

again be important, since the CBO report will probably not be issued until early September or later. Cabin owners are confident that the CFA can be reasonably and satisfactorily modified if necessary to accommodate any changes required by the CBO.

In the meantime, key Senators are being asked to introduce and pass a Senate CFA. If enactment cannot be accomplished in the limited time left for this Congress, then cabin owners will need an extension of the moratorium on cabin fee increases Congress passed last year.

With all this in mind, NFH and its allies in the Cabin Coalition 2 are asking all cabin owners to stress the following main points in communications to their Senators and Representatives and their key staff members:

### For Senators:

**Support introduction and passage of the CFA in the Senate.**

**If necessary, support an extension of the current moratorium on cabin fee increases for 2011.**

### For Representatives

**Pass the CFA on the floor of the House.**

**If necessary, support a moratorium extension.**

The goal is to contact ALL Senators and Representatives, with the following Members especially important:

1. Those who are on committees that have vital jurisdiction over the CFA (the House Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee) and/or will decide whether the current moratorium is extended for another year (the House and Senate Appropriations Committees); and
2. Those who have a large number of cabin owners in their State or in their Congressional District.

NFH and the C2 Coalition have sent cabin owners a list of those Senators and Representatives who have clearly

*continued on page 6...*

# SEPTEMBER EDUCATIONAL FORUM

The NFH Fall Educational Forum will take place in Boise, Idaho on September 18th at the Grove Hotel in Boise. Registration will begin at noon. The program will take place from 1:00 until 5:30 p.m. The Forum will continue the interesting series of educational programs presented at various cities throughout the West.

The program for the forum is under development at this time, but will include the latest information about the status of the Cabin Fee Bill, with an opportunity for you to ask questions of the NFH officers and staff who have been steering the legislation in Washington, D.C. As in the past, the Forest Service will also contribute to the program. A joint Forest Service/NFH panel will discuss appraisals and second appraisals. There will be ample time for your appraisal-related questions to be asked at this session, as well.

A presentation by the National Interagency Fire Center, located in Boise, has been requested by local tract officers. We are very hopeful it can be arranged, since the NIFC is the logistical and support center for U.S. wild land firefighting. The NIFC coordinates efforts of Department of Interior agencies, Forest Service, National Weather Service, and state/local/tribal/volunteer firefighting efforts. This is their busy time of year so sending someone to talk to us may not be possible.

As always, we will have an end-of-meeting general question-and-answer session where your questions can be answered by the experts.

The NFH website, [www.nationalforesthowners.org](http://www.nationalforesthowners.org) will have updated Boise forum information as the program firms up in the coming weeks. Registration forms can be printed from the NFH website.



## BOISE, IDAHO

### Grove Hotel

245 S Capitol Blvd.

Boise, ID 83702

1-888-961-5000

208-333-8000

[grovehotelboise.com](http://grovehotelboise.com)

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*We hope you, your family and friends can join us on Saturday, September 18, 2010, for this important and informative cabin owner forum.*

*Presenting*  
**NFH Fall Area Forum**

Boise, Idaho  
from 1:00pm to 5:30pm  
on Saturday, September 18, 2010  
at  
The Grove Hotel  
245 South Capitol Blvd.

PLEASE SEND REGISTRATIONS TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 14. After that time, please register at the door at 12:00 noon, and bring your \$15.00 per person fee.

Questions? Call Executive Director Mary Clarke Ver Hoef at 1-800-669-9971.

## NATIONAL FOREST HOMEOWNERS

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Others attending from my cabin:

\_\_\_\_\_

My cabin is located in the \_\_\_\_\_ Tract, in the \_\_\_\_\_ National Forest, in the state of \_\_\_\_\_.

I  am /  am not (please check one) a member of National Forest Homeowners.

My check or money order for \$15 per person, made payable to National Forest Homeowners, is enclosed. Send to: NFH Forum Registration, 541 W. Santa Clara Avenue, Santa Ana CA 92706-2548

# Recognize Excellence

## MAKE *a* NOMINATION *for a* 2010 NFH AWARD

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*By Daryl Weech, Awards Committee Member*

The summer months seem to fly by faster than the rest of the year. This could possibly be due to the fact that cabin owners just do not have enough good weather days to enjoy their cabins. We encounter many individuals in our areas that are outstanding in promoting the recreation experience for us on the national forests, and NFH would like to recognize them at our annual convention.

The award categories are as follows: Tract, Volunteer, Leadership, Communication, and Recreation Advocate. As we come in contact with tracts throughout the country, we hear of many individuals who are deserving of recognition.

We encourage everyone to nominate someone who has made and is making a difference in your area, which makes your time at the cabin more enjoyable.

Criteria and forms can be obtained by going on-line to [nationalforesthomeowners.org](http://nationalforesthomeowners.org) and clicking on NFH Awards. This year, we are trying to reach out to the outlying areas of the country and to the smaller tracts to recognize those individuals as well. I would like to encourage everyone to take a look around and submit nominations for these deserving awards. Thank you.

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## WEBSITE PROGRESS

*By Mike Hoover*

When the NFH website was developed, we never dreamed it would be used as much as it is today. (Of course, we never dreamed we would be having so much fun with CUFFA, either...) So many cabin owners are using the website for information and to connect, and you have told us how you feel about using it.

Several months ago, the Board formed a Website working group to do a complete, more modern website design. We have hired a very well-qualified consultant, and we are making great progress. Our basic goal is an elegant website with a simplified design and a high degree of usability, and I think we are making great strides toward those goals.

We are impatient to get the new website up and running, so look for it to go "live" sometime in the next few months. One day you will open up the website, and it will be changed. You will not have to do anything different, it will be that simple. And we will very much want your feedback when that does happen, because even though our Working Group is vetting the new site to the best of our ability, we know that with a large number of users there will be at least a few issues we could not see. So let us know.

And thanks to so many of you who are using the website today. We know that it is our window into the future.



## 2011 NFH CANDIDATE SEARCH UNDER WAY

With the 2011 elections only a few months away, the 2011 Nominating Committee is busy assembling a list of prospective candidates for the leadership positions to be filled in the 2011 election: Vice President, Secretary, five directors, and five members of the 2012 Nominating Committee.

The committee is looking for prospective candidates able to represent the geographic spread of the cabin program, knowledgeable of the program, and active in their local organizations. If you know someone who should be considered for one of these positions – including yourself – please contact anyone on the 2011 Nominating Committee:

**Mary Lou Christensen, Chair** - Marylouc121@aol.com - 801-424-9042

**Barbara Bailey** - BBailey@harbornet.com - 253-383-2388

**Dick Burrows** - aa7pr@comcast.net - 253-859-4355

**Sarah Dahl** - SDahl1192@sbcglobal.net - 530-345-1245

**Roy Glauthier** - rglauthier@aol.com - 949-650-5956

Our VOTE BY MAIL election process provides all Regular Members the opportunity to participate in choosing the top candidates for available NFH leadership positions. Membership involvement in the process is key to ensuring that NFH represents cabin owner interests nationwide. Watch for your ballot in your mailbox this next February.

### WASHINGTON REPORT

*...continued from page 3*

indicated their support for cabin owners (such as the 27 bipartisan cosponsors of the CFA in the House) and who should be thanked, and again urged to continue that support through final enactment of the CFA into law; as well as a list of those Senators and Representatives who will be most important to achieving final success. For the complete list of these key Members of Congress, including those on the vital committees, go to the NFH website.

#### NFH Newsletter

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### *In Memorium*

*Dorothy Copeland, 91, a cabin owner from Washington state, recently passed away. She was a strong recreational residence proponent, her family having had a cabin since the 1920s. Mrs. Copeland showed her support for cabin owners by bequeathing a substantial sum to the National Forest Homeowners.*





# Tales from the ED

My mosquito bites from my trip to Bemidji, Minnesota, are almost gone now.

Actually, the bugs were amazingly few, given Minnesota's reputation. We had an amazing number of participants at the Forum there in late July, and I ran out of the 55 walk-in registration forms and all the name tags I brought! But we brought in more chairs and we were off and running with a highly successful Forum in a new location.

After the Forum, some of us were lucky enough to visit some of the local tracts. It is a humbling lesson every time we see a new tract. Just when you thought you knew what a cabin tract looked like, another version appears. The cabins on islands (in the winter you can drive across the ice to get water well drilling rigs in) still have electricity and internet and TV, but access in the summer is by boat. Few drive across

the ice to stay in winter, although it has been done. The appraisals showed the island location cut the values in half.

Other tracts were along the lakes, and looked somewhat like mid-20th-century small homes. This is very different from my 7,000-foot Sierra Nevada mountain lake cabin. They are not nearly as remote, and many lakes and islands have both private and forest service homes. All this shows up on the appraisals to set their fees.

And fees are very much front and center of my world at the moment. I am at the receiving end of many questions about second appraisals and appeals. We do our best to answer those questions and to guide our permittees. As the other articles in this newsletter discuss, we need your best to keep the process of a legislative solutions moving. Keep those legislators' feet to the fire!

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## NFH MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Cabin: State \_\_\_\_\_ Forest \_\_\_\_\_ Ranger District \_\_\_\_\_

Tract Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lot# \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Tract Assn (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Check Type of Membership:    Regular (\$40)    Associate (\$25)

Regular membership is open to any permit holder, spouse of a holder, co-holder, or person with a financial interest in a recreation residence. Associate memberships are open to individuals and organizations that have an interest in the purposes and/or services of NFH, but are not eligible for Regular membership.

Make check payable to National Forest Homeowners and mail with this completed form to:

National Forest Homeowners, 541 W. Santa Clara Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92706-2548

Please send a new member certificate to (if different from new member address):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



## National Forest Homeowners

541 W. Santa Clara Avenue  
Santa Ana, California 92706-2548

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Salt Lake City, Utah  
PERMIT 1988

**NFH Hotline:** 1.800.669.9971

**E-mail:** [nfh100@yahoo.com](mailto:nfh100@yahoo.com)

**NFH WEBSITE:**

[www.nationalforesthowners.org](http://www.nationalforesthowners.org)



## SAVE THE DATE!

### SEPTEMBER FORUM: BOISE, IDAHO

Saturday, September 18th | 1:00-5:30pm | Grove Hotel | 245 S. Capitol Blvd.



## NFH MISSION

National Forest Homeowners is a member-directed organization representing cabin-owner recreation residence permittees on our national forests. NFH provides leadership, member information and assistance, and advocacy for continuation of all recreation residence cabins. It is dedicated to educating its members and others in sound science stewardship of our national forests.

## COMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 18, 2010

FORUM:

#### Boise, Idaho

The Grove Hotel  
245 S Capitol Blvd.  
Boise, ID 83702  
1-800-716-6199  
[grovehotelboise.com](http://grovehotelboise.com)

### JANUARY 22, 2011

FORUM:

#### Tucson, Arizona

Radisson Suites Hotel, Tucson Airport  
7071 S. Tucson Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ 85756  
520-225-0800 or 1-800-333-333  
[www.radisson.com/tucsonaz](http://www.radisson.com/tucsonaz)