

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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SEPTEMBER 20 IS “FEE-FREE” DAY FOR FOREST VISITORS

TUCSON, AZ (September 15, 2003)— Saturday, September 20, is a “fee-free day” for Coronado National Forest visitors.

“We are pleased to offer this free day in conjunction with National Public Lands Day,” said Stan Helin, Coronado National Forest Recreation Program Leader.

Forest facilities available at no charge on Saturday, September 20 include:

- All Coronado National Forest campgrounds (one day only),
- All Coronado National Forest picnic areas (one day only),
- All open Coronado National Forest sites on Mt. Lemmon,
- Sabino Canyon parking lot,
- Madera Canyon Recreation Area sites.

Sabino Canyon Tours, a Forest concessionaire, is not included in the free day event and will charge fees for shuttles rides that day; however, there will be no charge to park in the Sabino Canyon parking lot.

A group that works in support of public lands, the Friends of Sabino Canyon, is holding an Aspen Fire Recovery Benefit on September 20. The event, "Star Spangled Saddles," a musical tribute to the American West, will be held that evening at 7:00 pm in the Crystal Palace Dining Room, Hidden Valley Inn, at 4825 N. Sabino Canyon Road. The Friends are asking that interested parties reserve seats no later than September 15. Proceeds will be used to benefit Coronado National Forest watershed protection and canyon flood damage clean up efforts.

National Public Lands Day has been celebrated nationally since 1994. The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation manages, coordinates, and generates financial support for the program through public-private partnerships involving many federal, state, and local land agencies as well as business partners and numerous non-profit organizations.