

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
Supervisor's Office
300 W. Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701
Phone: (520) 670-4552
Fax: (520) 670-4567
www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado



For Immediate Release

Contact: Chris Schrager (520) 670-4735
Friends of Kentucky Camp (520) 299-4281

HISTORIC KENTUCKY CAMP HOSTS "OPEN HOUSE"

TUCSON, AZ (March 4, 2004)—You are cordially invited to attend Arizona's version of a true Kentucky Camp. An open house will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2004, from 10:00am to 3:00pm. The Coronado National Forest and Friends of the Kentucky Camp will host this event in connection with Arizona Archaeology Awareness Month. The event is free of charge but donations to aid in the preservation are always welcomed.

Activities planned for the open house include demonstrations of gold panning and making adobe bricks; hands-on participation by guests is encouraged! There will also be tours of the site and portions of the historic water system and hydraulic workings. Food and drinks will be available to purchase, and Friends of Kentucky Camp will be selling merchandise including t-shirts, caps, postcards, and other memorabilia to help raise funds for preservation programs.

Relax in the serene beauty of Kentucky Camp by renting out a rustic adobe cabin. Ideal for the outdoor enthusiast, miles of trails provide an excellent setting for hikers and mountain cyclists. Many amenities are available including sofa, table and chairs, beds, and a grill. The cabin is available year round for \$75 per night.

Built in 1904, Kentucky Camp was the headquarters of the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company. After the death of a chief engineer, the camp was abandoned. The property became a working cattle ranch for the next 50 years before being sold to mining conglomerate. The Coronado National Forest acquired the site in 1989; since then, the Forest and volunteers have been working together to preserve the site. Kentucky Camp is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Directions to Kentucky Camp (located on the eastern side of the Santa Rita Mountains, about 50 miles southeast of Tucson): From Tucson, travel Interstate 10 east about 20 miles to exit 281 (Highway 83). Go south on Highway 83 about 20 miles to a turn-off to the right marked "Gardner Canyon." Turn right on Gardner Canyon Road. After one mile, turn right on FR 163 (Fish Canyon Road) and follow the signs to Kentucky Camp. Parking will be available on a hilltop located outside the gated site. Proceed along the pedestrian walkway for ¼ mile to the site. A shuttle will be available for need-based visitors.

For more information, please contact Chris Schrager (520-670-4735) or Kathy Makansi (520-670-2502) at the Coronado National Forest, or Mark and Sandy Doumas (520-299-4281) of the Friends of Kentucky Camp.