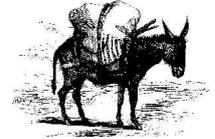


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# Kentucky Camp Chronicle



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Newsletter on the gold mining and ranching heritage of Kentucky Camp, AZ

December 2007

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## More Cabins with a View

By Kathy Makansi

The Forest Service with extensive help from the Friends of Kentucky Camp will soon be completing the renovation of the Headquarters building and we anticipate renting it to the public on a daily basis beginning in April 2008. Groups will be able to reserve the Headquarters building and the cabin for meetings, receptions, weddings, community gatherings and similar uses.

The \$200 fee will include day-use of the Headquarters building and overnight use of the small cabin. The Headquarters building, with its eight rooms and porch, can accommodate up to 50 people. The building contains a small kitchenette (including two refrigerators, a crock-pot, microwave and some dishes). Two futon couches, tables and chairs and one settee are available inside. Four Adirondack chairs and several picnic tables and benches are available outside. The cabin, which can be rented independently of the Headquarters building for \$75 a night, contains bunks for five people, a small refrigerator, hot plate, microwave, a picnic table and benches and a propane heater.

In late March, reservations can be made by contacting the Forest Service National Recreation Reservation Service, ReserveUSA, 1-877-444-6777 or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). In addition to the \$200 per day rental fee, a \$9 service fee will be charged for each reservation. The reservation service also has information about other Forest Service facilities, including the offered under the Arizona "Rooms with a View" Cabin Rental program.

If you have questions, comments or concerns regarding Forest Service plans to rent the Headquarters building, contact Kathy Makansi, Coronado National Forest, phone 520-760-2502.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (REA) requires that all recreation sites that charge a new fee must meet certain criteria before

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

### PAGE

More Cabins with a View	1
Important 2008 Dates	1
The Origins of the Santa Rita Forest Reserve	2
Annual Meeting and Open House Results	4
Unusual Rattlesnake Spotted	5

fees can be initiated. Rental of the Kentucky Camp Headquarters building meets criteria for charging reasonable recreation use fees. Proposals for new fee sites are reviewed by a Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) composed of citizens who have recreation interests on public lands. The existing Bureau of Land Management's Arizona Resource Advisory Council (BLM RAC) has been authorized to perform this function for new fee sites in Arizona. The proposed fee for Kentucky Camp will be reviewed at the next regular meeting of the BLM RAC in December. More information about this meeting can be obtained by calling the BLM state office at 602-417-9215.

## Important 2008 Dates

A new year is upon us, so get out your pencil and mark your calendar for key important events at Kentucky Camp.

- January 12, Saturday – Work Day
- February 9, Saturday - Work Day
- March 8, Saturday - Work Day
- April 12, Saturday - Work Day
- April 21 – 25 – PIT-like work week ←**NOTE!**
- May 10, Saturday - Work Day
- June 14, Saturday - Work Day
- July 12, Saturday - Work Day
- August 9, Saturday - Work Day
- September 13, Saturday - Work Day
- October 11, Saturday – Annual meeting & open house
- November 8, Saturday - Work Day
- December 13, Saturday - Work Day

## The Origins of the Santa Rita Forest Reserve: The People behind the Creation of Southern Arizona's First Forest - Part 2

William Gillespie

[Editor's note: The first half of this article appeared in the September 2007 issue of the Kentucky Camp Chronicle. In that installment, we learned of the efforts of Gifford Pinchot (who had the ear of Theodore Roosevelt), Robert Forbes, Beverley Galloway, and Francis Newhall to create the Santa Rita Forest Reserve.]

The next step was to get funding from Congress to carry out the boundary survey for a reserve. On December 18, 1901, Pinchot assured Forbes that "I will keep you posted just as fast as there are any results in the forest reserve situation. If all goes well, I hope to have news to send you by the end of this week."<sup>1</sup>

In early February of 1902 funds were finally allocated. Forbes responded to Pinchot's news with evident glee:

Replying to yours of February 10, just received, I am quite as much pleased as yourself to learn of the assured success of the range reserve proposition, first of its kind in Arizona and the United States, and, so far as I know, the rest of the "foot stool". I earnestly hope that, pursuant to the formal making of the reserve, plans can be made with the requisite sinews of war for the effective administration of this domain.<sup>2</sup>

Pinchot wasted no time in getting the field examination under way. He had two new employees in mind for the work. Albert Potter, an Arizona man with experience with both sheep and cattle grazing would be the range expert while Royal S. Kellogg, a young forester with a Master's degree from Kansas State College in Manhattan would evaluate timber resources. Potter had led Pinchot on a memorable tour of the Mogollon Rim country in 1900 when Pinchot came west to decide for himself whether or not grazing should be permitted on Forest Reserves. Pinchot came away

from the trip very impressed with Potter and committed to a basic policy of grazing on Forests being acceptable as long as it was carefully regulated and permitted. After Pinchot and the Forest Service gained control of administering the Forests in 1905, Potter became the service's first Chief of Grazing and Associate Forester.<sup>3</sup>

Potter started west on a train from Washington on February 27, 1902, and a few days later met up with Kellogg in Denver.<sup>4</sup> They arrived in Tucson on March 8 and reported to Forbes at the University. After compiling information at the Land Office and the Assessor's Office on March 13 they started for the Santa Ritas. Other than one short return to Tucson, they spent the rest of the month making an inspection of the proposed reserve. Potter worked on his report, finishing the writing on April 8, recommending that the reserve be established. Only three days later, President Roosevelt issued the proclamation creating the Santa Rita Forest Reserve.

Soon after wrapping up their Santa Rita recommendations, Potter and Kellogg received orders to make examinations of the Chiricahua, Santa Catalina, Mount Graham, and Huachuca Mountains. All but the last were proclaimed as new Forest Reserves later that summer; the Huachucas became a Forest Reserve in 1906.<sup>5</sup>

The Santa Rita Forest Reserve as created in 1902 was notably different from the area administered by today's Nogales Ranger District and had features that distinguish it from both former and present Forests. The most distinctive characteristic is the large expanse of open rangeland. The reserve included the wooded highlands of the Santa Rita Mountains, but also extended all the way to Tucson, some 40 miles north of the mountains. The north end of the Forest Reserve later became Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The reserve was essentially bounded by what are now Interstate Highways I-10 on the northeast and I-19 on the west. Altogether, 592 square miles or 379,000 acres were withdrawn for the new reserve. Of this area, Potter reported that only 15 percent was "timbered land" and the majority of this was dominated by "scrub oak;" only 2000 acres or less than one percent was pine forest.



In 1903, the range experiment operation envisioned by Forbes got underway. David Griffiths, a researcher who had worked for Forbes until 1901 when he took a job with the Bureau of Plant Industry, was appointed to be the Bureau's representative for the experimental range. Forbes represented the University. In the summer of 1903 a large enclosure of some 49-square miles was fenced to keep out livestock. In 1907 while Roosevelt was still president, major additions were made to the Santa Rita on the south and east sides of the mountains, including the area around Kentucky Camp, and, as with all other Forest Reserves, it was renamed as a National Forest. But the very large Santa Rita National Forest was not destined to exist long. In 1908 it was merged with the Santa Catalina NF to create the Coronado NF. But also at about that time, a push was made to align forest boundaries more closely to forested lands.

The ax fell on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1910, when President William Taft issued a pair of executive orders. One of these orders removed more than 400 square miles of largely unwooded lands from the northern part of the Santa Ritas unit from the Coronado and returned them to the public domain. Simultaneously, a much smaller area of approximately 65 square miles of rangeland was proclaimed as a reserve "for the use of the Department of Agriculture for the purposes of an agricultural experiment station for experiments in improving forage production." So after a shared origin, the reserved range lands and forest lands were effectively separated. But a century later, both the Santa Rita Experimental Range and the Santa Rita unit of the Coronado National Forest are still going strong.

<sup>1</sup> Pinchot letter to Forbes, Dec. 18, 1901, on file, AZ Hist. Soc., RH Forbes Papers, Box 12, Folder 11.

<sup>2</sup> Forbes letter to Pinchot, Feb. 15, 1902, on file, AZ Hist. Soc., RH Forbes Papers, Box 12, Folder 12.

<sup>3</sup> See David A. Prevedel and Curtis M. Johnson, "Beginnings of Range Management: Albert F. Potter, First Chief of Grazing, U.S. Forest Service..." (2005) *USDA FS Intermountain Region Report R4-VM2005-01*.

<sup>4</sup> Copies of both Potter's diary and his report on the Examination of the Proposed Santa Rita Forest Reserve are on file at the Coronado NF Heritage Program.

<sup>5</sup> See R.S. Kellogg, "Forest Conditions in Southern Arizona" (1902), *Forestry and Irrigation* 8:501-505.

## Annual Meeting and Open House Results

Just a quick "thank-you" to those who were able to come out and help at the Kentucky Camp annual meeting and open house on October 13<sup>th</sup>. We had a light (but steady) stream of visitors through the early afternoon. The weather was great and next year we'll continue to do a combined annual meeting and open house in October.

In addition to the annual meeting, we actually got some work done at the site. We moved some furniture around in preparation for renting the HQ building for an up-coming Tohono O'odham event. We also applied some sacrificial adobe coating to the Headquarters building with the help of some of the open house visitors. We had a good day of fundraising with just over \$130 in t-shirt, mug and note card sales.

As an added bonus, Linda Hummel Roslund joined us for the day. Linda is a life member of the Friends of Kentucky camp and resides in California. Linda was able to provide us with some first-hand accounts of her visits to see her aunt Flossie when the site was still being operated as a ranch.



Linda Hummel Roslund

## Unusual Rattlesnake Spotted at Kentucky Camp

By Sandy Doumas

Recently photographed on the kitchen patio of the rental cabin was this young banded rock rattlesnake. It was less than one foot long. Its head is at the top of the photo, partially hidden by vegetation. (Although this is a black-and-white photo it's still a fairly good representation of the banded rock rattlesnake: the snake actually has black bands on a gray background.)

This species Latin name is *Crotalus lepidus klauberi*, and you can find more information about it by searching for the Latin name on the internet.

The banded rock rattlesnake can be found in many of southeastern Arizona's mountain ranges, but is not found north of I10. There is a well-documented "line," roughly following I10 in southeastern Arizona, which divides Rocky Mountain species of animals to the north from Sierra Madre species to the south. Some types of animals (such as many large mammals) do NOT follow this rule and can be found on both sides of the line, but less-mobile species, and those restricted to mountain elevations, are often segregated by this line. Snakes tend to follow the rule, and this little guy is found only south of the line. (By the way, I10 just happens to follow the line; it is not the cause of the segregation. The line was established when the low-elevation areas between the mountains became desert after the last glacial period.)

The banded rock rattlesnake can be 15-33" long, so this snake appears to be fairly young. The coloration can vary widely in different locations, corresponding to different substrates. Its range is southeastern Arizona, west-central New Mexico, west Texas, and south into Mexico to Jalisco. It is found at elevations from 4000-8200 feet, in desert grasslands, pine-oak woodlands (like Kentucky Camp), and ponderosa pine forest. As its name implies, it is found primarily in rocky areas. It eats lizards, small snakes, and rodents. Young snakes may have bright yellow tail tips, which may serve as a lure to attract lizards.

The snake is protected in Arizona, prohibiting collection from the wild. We recommend that you do NOT approach or touch ANY rattlesnakes, and

remember that a bite from even a baby snake can be dangerous. Baby rattlesnakes are equipped with venom and the instincts to protect themselves, although most rattlesnakes will retreat if given the chance. They feed themselves with that venom, and it takes time and energy to produce; they do NOT want to waste it on you any more than you want to get bitten. But they have much to fear from large animals stomping around, hence the development of the rattle warning system. Such a clever system—they don't get stomped on, you don't get poisoned, and everyone can eat tomorrow!

We appreciate receiving accounts and photos of unusual wildlife seen at Kentucky Camp, assuming the photos can be taken without disturbing the wildlife or endangering yourself. Please note the date and location, as exactly as you can, and details of the encounter. If you feel the animal is behaving strangely or dangerously, please report this to the Forest Service or Arizona Game and Fish.



**Friends of Kentucky Camp**

12250 N. Copper Spring Trail  
Oro Valley, AZ 85755

**Web Site:**

<http://www.aztecfreenet.org/fkcamp/>

**Discussion Group:**

FriendsofKentuckyCamp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

**Newsletter Submissions:**

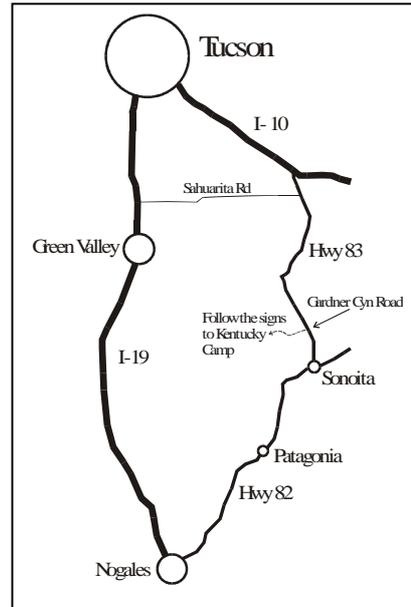
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Kathy Makansi 520 760-2502



**Memberships:**

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Friends of Kentucky Camp is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization: all dues are tax deductible.

Friends of Kentucky Camp  
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