



## USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region – Prescott National Forest

### Briefing Paper – Eagle Ridge Group Campground Fee

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Date: August 2013

**Issue:** Proposal to Establish Fees at Eagle Ridge Group Campsite –

**Lynx Lake Area – Prescott National Forest (R3)**

**Target Implementation – Spring 2014**

**Background:** Eagle Ridge Group Campground opened in the Lynx Lake area of the Prescott National Forest (PNF) in July 2011. It replaced Granite Group Campground (a fee site), which was closed in October 2010 due to resource concerns. The new campground has two site units; Osprey with capacity for 75 persons and Peregrine with capacity for 25 persons. Both sites at the campground have tent or trailer spaces, picnic tables under a group shelter, drinking water, paved access roads, reasonable visitor protection, refuse containers, toilet facilities and fire rings—exceeding minimum amenity requirements to charge fees at developed campgrounds. Capital investment for this project was roughly \$700,000.

The PNF Landscape Architect (Ann May) and West Zone Recreation Program Manager (Susan Johnson) reviewed the 2008 Forest-wide Fee Proposal for the PNF and determined the proposed fees are within the amenities and existing fee structure established in 2008 for group sites on the PNF. Similar PNF group campsites include: Granite Group Camp; Playground (Group) Campground; Turney Gulch Group Campground, and Upper Wolf Creek Group Campground. Fees at these group sites range from \$75-150, based on the group size. The proposed fees for Eagle Ridge Group Campground are:

- Osprey: \$75/night for up to 50 persons; or \$125/night for up to 75 persons
- Peregrine: \$50/night for up to 25 persons

**Current Status:** In order to establish fees at the newly constructed group campground, a level of public involvement, posting in the Federal Register (6 months prior to implementation of the fee), and presentation to the Bureau of Land Management Arizona Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (AZ-BLM-RRAC) is required. Public involvement is needed in order to gauge general public support for the fee proposal. The Prescott National Forest would like to establish fees for the 2014 Operating Season. To meet this timeline, proposed fees will be published in the Federal Register by mid - August 2013 and the proposal presented to the AZ-BLM-R-RAC. The next AZ-BLM R-RAC meeting is expected to be held in the late fall of 2013, the exact meeting time, location, and agenda will be announced on their website, <http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/res/rac.html> and through local media.

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