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From: MSRPO [jeff@msrpo.org]
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To: kimberlyw@charter.net
Subject: test - Greetings, Seasonal Property Owners

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Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners

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MSRPO Coalition, Inc.

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Greetings, Seasonal Property Owners!

MSRPO Making Headway on Leased Lands

Federal Use Permit Fees

We are starting to make headway on this issue, both regarding taxation in Minnesota, and at the national level regarding the reappraisal and permit fees currently being conducted on the National Forests. Most federal use permit holders on Chippewa National Forest have gotten their new appraisal and resulting assessment. Superior National Forests new assessments are not expected to be complete until 2010.

The new fees on the Chippewa are ominous - some have seen the costs go up five or six times.

MSRPO has been working with Coalition 2, a national organization that is representing Federal Use Permit holders across the nation. MSRPO member John Murray (jlm1952@hotmail.com) has been coordinating with them on a nationwide effort to let legislators know that the CUFFA standards are being poorly applied by USFS staff, and the resulting permit fees are literally forcing people off of the National Forests.

We are having an impact:

The National Forest Homeowners Association recently put an announcement on their home page. [Here is a link](#). It reads in part: "On January 5th, 2009, the Secretary of Agriculture sent the Chief of the Forest Service a directive that cabin owner fees due in 2009 are to be the same as the 2008 fees, with a 2% inflation adjustment. The Washington Office is now working on a directive to this effect to send to all the regions.

The directive will clearly state that this action is being taken in expectation of Congressional action in 2009 to revisit and revise/reform/replace the Cabin Users Fee Fairness Act (CUFFA).

If Congress does not take action regarding CUFFA in the next twelve months, the 2009 fee increases are to be collected retroactively by the FS.

In response to the question, Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark Rey said that any cabin owner who has already received a 2009 fee bill should ignore it and wait for a new fee in accord with this policy."

We have not won yet - we have only turned the tide.

We have a window of opportunity and we must call our national representatives. Write the Senators or Congress - people that represent you where you live and vote.

[Click here](#) to sign up for our mailing list

[Here is a link](#) to your U.S. Representative.

[Here is a link](#) to your U.S. Senator.

MSRPO is working to get Minnesota's National delegation behind a CUFFA Rule change. We had made good headway with Norm Coleman's office before the election, and he had actually sent some staff to personally see some of these cabins. But it now looks as if Al Franken will be our senator. We are currently trying to get our case before his staff and expect him to also be receptive to our message. If you call or write his office, or any other of the national Reps or Senators, tell them how the new CUFFA standards have affected you, and the unfairness of valuing these properties in this way. Ask them to force the USFS to change their policy. Show them a copy of your new appraisal and fee structure.

Action Step

MSRPO member John Murray has requested that all the Permit Holders on Chippewa National Forest (Superior National Forest appraisals and increased permit fees will probably not be sent until the end of 2009) email him with the old appraisal on their lots, the new appraisal, and what the Property taxes have been. Email this information to jlm1952@hotmail.com

He will be using this information to create a chart so that legislators can see exactly what the CUFFA rules are doing to Minnesota cabin owners.

Use the subject heading *Cabin Appraisal Information* so that if his spam filter catches it, he will know to open it anyway.

Remove Federal Use Permits from Minnesota Property Taxes

MSRPO will be pushing a bill to remove Federal Use Permits from the State property tax. A number of legislators have already indicated their support. If you live in Minnesota, you should call, write or email the legislator who represents the district where your Homestead is located. Ask them to support legislation to remove Federal Use Permits from state property tax. A portion of your federal permit fee is returned to the state by the Forest Service to make up for lost tax revenue. So in essence, the state property tax is double-dipping on you.

Make sure to include your home address and contact information so that your legislator can respond to you. If you get a reply, please forward it to MSRPO.

If you live out of state - write a Letter to the Editor about this issue in the local paper where your cabin is located. On the [MSRPO Website](#) you will find links to all media outlets and legislators.

Contest your Assessment

And finally, MSRPO member Anne Feltmeyer sent through the enclosed: "I'm sure all of you have received your lease increase notification from the Forestry by now. Given the current real estate market, the values given to the 'typical lots' by the Forestry during the recent assessments are highly inflated.

We would like to encourage each of you to challenge these assessments by sending the attached letter (given to me by Jim Dominik, the 'typical lot' holder in our group) to Joe Alexander within 60 days of your increase notification. This allows you to identify the 'typical lot' that was used to determine your increase, and contact all cabin owners in your seasonal recreation group (i.e. North Sioux, etc.) to obtain a new private appraisal of that lot within one year. The cost would be nominal split amongst your group, and well worth the expense."

[Click here](#) to download a copy of the letter.

Sincerely,



Jeff Forester
Executive Director



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Not a member of MSRPO? [Click here](#) to join our mailing list. Together, we can protect the family lake place from confiscatory property taxes.

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