



File Code: 2350

Date: April 11, 2014

To Whom it May Concern,

This Letter of Agreement provides a framework for cooperation between the Sedona Westerners, Inc. and the Coconino National Forest. Sedona Westerners and the Coconino National Forest share an interest in providing recreational experiences and taking responsibility for caring for National Forest land. The parties agree that National Forest lands are available for public use and enjoyment and that recreationists should minimize impact to the National Forest. The parties understand that the National Forest should be protected from damage to soil, water, cultural resources, wildlife habitat and vegetation.

The Coconino National Forest includes a remarkable natural environment, rich in plants, wildlife and cultural resources. The Forest offers opportunities to be inspired and rejuvenated. The Forest Service promotes the concept of "Leave No Trace" with the Sedona Westerners and other groups on the National Forest. "Leave No Trace" can generally be defined as treating the land with respect and leaving the land as you find it.

The Sedona Westerners Inc. is a club dedicated to hiking in the greater Sedona area. The Club has a unique history of over 50 years of contributions to the community and to the Coconino National Forest. The Sedona Westerners is an incorporated, non-profit, non-activist, non-commercial entity. Club objectives are to enjoy and protect the public land by respecting the natural and cultural heritage of the area. The Club does not charge a fee for going on club hikes and limits Club hikes to members. In addition the Club has an emergency assistance team set up to assist the Forest Service with their operations during a forest fire or during other times of forest emergency under a volunteer agreement. This team consists of volunteers from the Club and is headed by the Club Lookout.

The Sedona Westerners recognizes that it has an interest and responsibility in the preservation of the natural and cultural areas where its hiking activities take place. The Club desires to cooperate with the US Forest Service regarding group size and "Leave No Trace" techniques by minimizing the impact of their hiking activities. For this reason the Club will follow these guidelines to ensure that their activities are compatible with "leaving no trace" on Forest lands.

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area visited.
- Keep group size to 25 people or less. If group size exceeds 25 people, divide the group into two groups separated during hiking and lunching activities.
- In wilderness keep group size to 12 or less. If groups exceed this size, divide the group into two groups separated during hiking and lunching activities.
- Do not construct trails, maintain trails or cut switch-backs.



- Travel on durable surfaces such as rock or drainages when traveling cross-country.
- Follow the provisions in the handout, "Etiquette for Visiting Cultural Resource Sites".
- No archaeological sites will be visited in Boynton Canyon.
- Do not take breaks or lunch at archaeological sites.
- Do not describe archaeological sites in Westerner publications and newspaper articles.
- Pack-it-in, Pack-it-out and help clean up trash deposited by others.
- Designate a member of the Club to serve as a Forest Service liaison.
- Limit Club stories in local publications to official Forest system trail hikes so as not to encourage off-trail hiking by unprepared people.

The Westerners will provide the District with descriptions of unusual and notable forest conditions such as unsatisfactory trail conditions, missing signs, graffiti sites, trash sites and sites of unauthorized trail building within the National Forest or Red Rock Ranger District. Locations, with photos when possible, will be described using GPS coordinates and provided through the Club Forest Service liaison.

The USFS appreciates the unique contributions made by the Sedona Westerners since 1961 and the ongoing value of the club to the Forest Service and the greater Sedona community. The Club is part of the cultural fabric of the area and represents a substantial number of area residents.

It is agreed that an annual meeting between the Westerners and FS will facilitate communication about mutual goals. In addition, meetings can be requested by either party to review and evaluate mutual issues of concern. The Forest Service will provide educational programs to the Westerners as requested, resources permitting.

This agreement may be revised as necessary, by consent of both parties, by issuance of a written amendment, signed and dated by both parties.



NICOLE BRANTON  
District Ranger



MARION HADJI-AGHA  
President, Sedona Westerners, Inc.