

Free Public Event to Highlight Support for Sedona “National Scenic Area” Designation

On Wednesday, July 22, the Sedona-Red Rock National Scenic Area (NSA) Coalition invites the public to come out and show their support for a National Scenic Designation (NSA) for the Sedona area. To be held from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Sedona Elks Lodge, 110 Airport Road, this free event will feature the Scenic Sedona video, which has had more than 2,000 views in three weeks on youtube.com and was created to honor the commitment from the public to making the NSA a reality. A new video also will be introduced. Complimentary wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served.

The coalition, which includes Democrats of the Red Rocks, The Sierra Club Sedona-Verde Valley and Keep Sedona Beautiful, has been at the forefront of the movement to have Sedona designated as a National Scenic Area. The groups have collected more than 3,500 statements of support urging U.S. Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick to introduce Sedona-Red Rock NSA legislation. Arizona Senators John McCain and Jon Kyl have stated previously that they will support the bill.

At present, the 160,000 acres comprising the proposed NSA -- forest areas surrounding Sedona, the Village of Oak Creek, and Big Park -- have temporary protections from land trades afforded by Amendment 12 of the Coconino National Forest management plan. However, the plan is currently under review, and changes may be in place as early as 2011. An NSA designation would prohibit land trades within the Amendment 12 area permanently.

The NSA designation would not affect any private, state, or municipal lands. The Forest Service would continue to manage this area in accordance with their current management plan, and no new administrative authority will be required.

”The NSA designation would permanently preserve our irreplaceable scenic beauty, small-town character, and property values, while enabling the community to provide needed schools, roads and other public necessities in the future,” said Steve DeVol, KSB President. “We are at a crucial time in the evolution of Sedona. It is critical that area residents voice their support for permanent protections from land trades – that they express their support for the NSA designation.”

For more information on the NSA designation, please visit www.keepsedonabeautiful.org or call 282-4938. The Scenic Sedona video may be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/KeepSedonaBeautiful>.

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