FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office

Subject: COMMENTS: Master Development Plan for Camp Lawton", #52903

Date: Sunday, April 12, 2020 9:24:48 PM

Dear Regional Forester, Santa Catalina Ranger District:

Please accept these comments on the Master Development Plan for Camp Lawton. I agree that the existing facilities at the camp should be upgraded (i.e., adding a new kitchen to the dining hall, rebuilding pool, and expanding trading post to create additional storage), but there should be a limit on the number and type of structures that are added to the camp's overall area. I would support shelters over picnic tables, but not all the various shelters to keep camp leaders/campers out of inclement weather. It just seems that this camp is getting more and more crowded with all kinds of little structures that aren't necessary. I mean, some of these shelters/structures could be created temporarily, using scout know-how. You could have an activity just building outdoor structures using common materials. I don't believe this camp needs a multi-sports court, there are already tons of other activities (i.e., archery, shooting range, a pool, hiking, arts and crafts, outdoor nature activities) offered at this camp. This doesn't mean that you couldn't have a basketball hoop somewhere, but do you need to put more concrete down in the forest?

I am also opposed to the construction of the new COPE course and the climbing wall, because this forest is already going to have to endure various impacts from construction. I'm opposed to expanding the bathroom and adding a washer/dryer on Staff Hill. I believe that camping should offer a different way of living and that campers (including camp leaders and staff) should expect camping in the mountains to remain somewhat primitive and to expect to have to cope with bugs, dirt, and a lack of facilities common to city life.

Sincerely, Lee Ann Bennett, former girl scout