

Organizing Your Tract or Association Part I

This is a simple approach - The First Step to Organize your Cabin Group Start with Communication ~ Test the waters ~ See if there is an interest?

1. Identify the leaders in your tract – If you are reading this you might be one.
2. Talk to other Cabin Associations or Tract Leaders around the US; educate yourselves so you can educate your group:
 - A) Find out if you have a State Associations: Join and get their Newsletter.
 - B) Find out about the National Forest Homeowners: Join and get their newsletter.
 - C) Find Tract Associations: Meet their offices and find out what they do.
3. Have a meeting with a “few “ interested cabin owners.
 - A) Identify “why your tract should become an association”, write it down.
 - B) Identify the communicators in your tract, the ones who have a current addressess and e-mail list of cabin owners.
 - a) Gather cabin owner information
 - b) Set up an Emil list.
 - c) Ask cabin neighbors to help fill in the blanks.
 - d) Ask your District Ranger’s office for a list of all the permit holders in your tract, names, addresses, phone and email addresses if possible.
 - e) Sharing or not sharing of cabin owner information should be discussed.
4. Get to know who represents you in the political arena, both local and national.
 - A) Find your State Senators and Representatives:
 - a) Gather their contact information to share with Cabin Owners
 - b) Find someone in their office who works with the Cabin Programissues. Make it your job to become their friend.
5. Send out an E-mail announcing you’re first gathering, include the reasons why forming a tract could benefit your cabin group.
6. Invite the cabin owners to an informal meeting to talk about the concept. Coffee and cookies are good, potlucks are fine, keep it simple.
 - A) Talk about the importance of:
 - a) Communication with: Congressmen, State Organizations, National Forest Homeowners and Local or Regional Forest Service personnel.
 - b) Being up to date on National Issues: Example: The CUFFA bill just come in the mail.
 - c) Being up to dated Local Issues: Example: Garbage organization, removal of dead trees.
7. Send informational e-mails to your group on a regular basis. Include National news, other Tract news, State Organization newsletters, and the NFH E-Newsletter.