

Friends group being formed

April 21, 2010

An official 501c3 non-profit corporation is currently being formed for the purpose of raising funds for the continual operations of Alamo Lake State Park.

The corporation "Friends of Alamo Lake" will operate as a 501c3 under the umbrella of the Arizona State Parks Foundation, a non-governmental agency assisting the Friends group in the collections of donations for Alamo Lake State Park.

By collecting funds as a Friends group separate from the State of Arizona, the Friends group can collect donations without fear of donated dollars being swept up by the State of Arizona. Working as a non-profit corporation, all money raised for Lake Alamo State Park will go toward Alamo Lake State Park and no other state park or agency.

The process of forming the Friends of Alamo Lake group will take two or three weeks, but time is of the essence and the group must begin collecting donations soon as Alamo State Park is scheduled to close on June 3.

Originally, it was thought that about \$50,000 would be needed to keep Alamo Lake State Park operational through June 2011. However, there is a striker bill/amendment currently in the Arizona State Legislature that if heard by the Arizona State Senate and passed, would take Lake Havasu State Park out of the state parks system and offer it as a leased property to the City of Lake Havasu.

This action could cause the state parks system to lose \$1 million in fiscal year 2010-2011, which would cause a ripple effect throughout the parks system. Alamo Lake would be affected by this proposed action.

Once the Friends of Alamo Lake group has become a legal non-profit corporation, a checking account will be set up for donations. Until the Friends of Alamo Lake group is processed as a non-profit corporation with the State of Arizona, an alternative process has been set up for the purpose of collecting funds and providing tax donation status.

If in the event that the donations do not meet the required amount needed to keep Alamo Lake State Park open, donations will be returned to those who gave money.

Please see the story "Donations now being taken" from the home page of Friends of Alamo Lake for details regarding fundraising efforts. Additional information can be found in the Wickenburg Sun (www.wickenburgsun.com) or on the Web site for the Town of Wickenburg (www.ci.wickenburg.az.us).