

Sample letter to USFS Regional Forester and Engineering Personnel

Today's Date, 2015

USFS Employee  
Address line one  
Address line 2  
City, State, Zipcode

RE: Redbird's acquisition of USFS houses in Chilao

Dear M. \_\_\_\_\_;

I am writing to express my support for the Native American and environmental non profit group Redbird in achieving ownership of two vacant U.S. Forest Service residences in Chilao. These residences are adjacent to Redbird's Chilao School property, and would be used to serve environmental studies students and researchers, forest volunteers and special needs individuals and their care-giving families.

These residences will allow Redbird to greatly expand the range of services and opportunities they are able to provide to the public. The forest itself will benefit, because volunteers will be able to devote more time to their work, be it the planting of trees, or trail building, or research.

Importantly, having available lodging for volunteer groups provides a measure of safety; it keeps people off of the highway at night.

Chilao is in the heart of the newly created San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and Redbird's Chilao School will need to be able to respond to an increasing demand for public programs. Having vacant structures in the heart of the monument area is not an ideal situation for the Forest Service, or for Redbird. By allowing Redbird to acquire these buildings, the burden of demolition or renovation is removed from the USFS, and the buildings will be put into public service. They will be transformed from a liability to an asset.

As National Monument status places an increased burden on the land with additional visitors, there needs to be more volunteer activity directed toward maintaining and sustaining the land. These residences can serve those who serve the forest, and provide opportunities for special needs individuals who may otherwise never get to experience the outdoors in a meaningful way.

We hope that you will be supportive of Redbird's goal to own these residences as a part of the Chilao School complex, and for the purpose of expanding cultural, environmental and forest restoration programs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Redbird Supporter name  
Street address  
City, State, Zipcode  
Email (optional)