

Whetstone plan goes to county panel next month

BY DANA COLE
HERALD/REVIEW

WHETSTONE — After more than two years of hard work and a series of revisions, the Whetstone Community Plan will be presented to the Cochise County Planning and Zoning Commission on Feb. 13 for its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

The presentation will be at a regularly scheduled meeting in the Board of Supervisors' hearing room at the Bisbee office, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G. The meeting starts at 4 p.m., with the Whetstone Plan expected to be presented around 4:30 p.m.

"Staff will co-present the plan with a member of the Whetstone Plan Land Use Committee and, after our presentation, there will be opportunity for members of the public to comment on the plan," said Susana Montana, planning manager for the Cochise County Planning Department.

Following the commission's recommendation, the draft will go before the supervisors for adoption, the final phase in the process.

If approved, the plan does not change existing zoning, but it becomes a guide for future rezoning or special use requests in the Whetstone area. It allows the communi-

ABOUT THE PLAN

The proposed Whetstone plan and land use map are listed on the county Web site, www.cochisecounty.com. Click on Planning and Zoning Department and then look on the left-side list of "new" items for the Whetstone plan and map.

For information on the plan, contact Susana Montana at 432-9252 or e-mail smontana@co.cochise.az.us.

ty to have a voice in the type of development that comes into the area.

At a Dec. 13 meeting, members of the Whetstone community gathered to reach a consensus regarding changes in the draft before its presentation to the planning commission.

One of the more significant revisions has been the removal of large parcels of land, primarily property belonging to Sands Ranch, at the request of the Sands family. Other large property owners in the area have requested to opt out of the plan as well. Changes in land use designations also were discussed at the meeting.

Prior to the Feb. 13 meeting, Montana is planning to e-mail the county's staff report that will be presented to the commission. The report will explain the plan and provide an analysis of its implications, along with

its enforcement process, Montana said.

"The land use map does not reflect all of the parcels whose owners have asked to opt out of the plan, as we are still analyzing the implications of leaving those parcels in or taking them out," Montana said.

Members of the community have expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the plan if too many holes are introduced, creating a "Swiss cheese" plan area.

For those without computers, hard copies of the plan and a color, poster-sized copy of the land use map have been posted in the following three Whetstone locations by Montana: Whetstone Southwest Pottery and Fountains; Whetstone Fire Department; and Mustang Crossing, the convenience store located in the northeast corner of highways 82 and 90.

"If you know folks who do not have Internet access, please let them know where the plan and map can be viewed," Montana said.

Once adopted, the plan will serve as a guide for growth and development in the Whetstone community, as a supplement to Cochise County's Comprehensive Plan.

HERALD/REVIEW reporter Dana Cole can be reached at 515-4618.



Jerry Cagle at the Cochise Dome.

COURTESY OF ELYSE GUARINO

Program, local man fix climbing anchors at Cochise Stronghold

BY ELYSE GUARINO
SPECIAL OF THE HERALD/REVIEW

The Anchor Replacement Initiative, a program dedicated to the replacement of worn and inadequate fixed anchors at popular climbing areas across the country, has contributed to Arizona's Cochise Stronghold.

In November, local volunteer Jerry Cagle recently replaced the bolts on Arizona's famous "What's My Line?" route on the Cochise Dome, which also is called "What's My Line Dome."

Cagle first saw Anchor Replacement Initiative advertised in Climbing Magazine and decided to participate because he wanted to upgrade some of the classic local climbs in the Tucson area.

"ARI made it possible to realize that goal," said Cagle, who was able to upgrade a climb of special significance to him and says he is grateful for the donations and support of The North Face and Petzl.

Cagle moved to Tucson about five years ago and having never acquired a taste for gyms, began climbing local spots such as Cochise Stronghold and Mount Lemmon. Although an Arkansas native, Cagle considers Cochise home and has become an active part of its climbing community.

"ARI makes it possible for people who care about climbing and the climbing community, but might not have the resources to purchase the hardware, a way to give back to the community through their labor," he said.



COURTESY OF ELYSE GUARINO

Jerry Cagle fixing an anchor at Cochise Dome.

He also said his work with the ARI was "very fulfilling," and he would "absolutely" work with the Anchor Replacement Initiative again.

Cagle plans on continuing to give back to the climbing community through re-bolting and anchor replacement work.

Climbing Magazine started Anchor Replacement Initiative in 2003 with the support of The North Face and Petzl. With these sponsors, the Anchor Replacement Initiative has been able to give back to the climbing community in a tangible way and help ensure safety with superior quality fixed hardware.

Over the past five years, Anchor Replacement Initiative, with local climbers across the nation, has been able to replace 253 anchors and more than 1,000 bolts.

Military tax credit donations sought

PHOENIX — The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services says that beginning this year, every person who files an Arizona State income tax return has the opportunity to receive a tax credit for contributing to the Military Family Relief Fund.

For each dollar donated, taxpayers receive a matching credit up to \$200 or \$400 if filing a joint return. Donations for tax credits will

be capped at \$1 million.

The Military Family Relief Fund (HB 2784), was signed into law by Gov. Janet Napolitano on Dec. 14.

Monies will be used to assist family members of troops wounded or killed in the line of duty.

"The Arizona Military Family Relief Fund will provide real help to the children and spouses of service members fighting the Global War on Terrorism,"

said Gregg Maxon, director of the state Department of Veterans' Services. "The fund is an outstanding way to support Arizona military families."

Donations are welcomed throughout the year. Send check or money order to: AZ Department of Veterans' Services, Attn: Director, 3839 North 3rd St., Suite 200, Phoenix AZ 85012

Donors will be mailed a receipt for tax purposes.

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