

Tuweep Airstrip Update

October 15, 2007



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**Arizona Pilots Association
Mission is to advise, educate, &
advocate in order to preserve
general aviation in the state of
Arizona.**

The following update reflects the current status of the Tuweep Airstrip.

On May 9, 2007, the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) re-classified, 280 acre's of Arizona State Trust Land from grazing to commercial. The land located north of the Grand Canyon is known as Tuweep. The Arizona Pilots Association (APA) formally applied to lease this land on August 1, 2005. It was APA's intent to lease just the land on which the airstrip was located (Approximately 20 acre's), but due to road right-of-way requirements it was determined by ASLD that we would have to lease 280 acres. Although annual lease numbers were verbally discussed (ranging from \$36,000 - \$10,000), APA never received a written proposal from ASLD denoting what the actual amount or terms would be.

The grazing lease holder, Jimmie Bundy Hughes, objected to the re-classification (See Attached letter) and submitted a formal notice of appeal.

On July 5, 2007, ASLD reversed itself and changed the land classification back to grazing. (See Attached) With that the grazing lease holder withdrew his appeal without prejudice.

The National Park Service (NPS) has expressed interest in and use of Tuweep Airstrip dating back to the days when NPS Ranger John Riffey flew his airplanes, Pogo 1 and Pogo 2 off the Airstrip to monitor NPS activities in Grand Canyon National Park. ASLD suggested that NPS, as a governmental agency, apply for a Special Use Permit (SUP) agreement with ASLD to re-open the airstrip.

APA has been informed that NPS was recently issued an SUP by ASLD, involving an area in North Eastern Arizona known as the Painted Desert. This SUP has been offered as a model for NPS to obtain a similar SUP for Tuweep Airstrip. If approved, APA would enter into an agreement with NPS to manage and maintain the facility.

NPS Ranger, Mike Ebersol states that a recent staff meeting resulted in NPS agreeing to move forward with the SUP proposal. They are currently awaiting the submission of a written agreement from ASLD outlining the process in which to accomplish this goal. As soon as they are in receipt of the document it will be forwarded to their solicitor in Santa Fe, NM for review and approval.

APA and all of our Back Country enthusiasts are anxiously looking forward to a mutually acceptable conclusion to this long and on going pursuit. We will keep you informed as to the outcome of our latest attempt in re-opening this World Class Aviation Treasure, hopefully with the announcement of the re-opening date.

Thank you for your patience.

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P.S. Chapman Ranch Airstrip in Young, Arizona, is now open. All available information on the strip can be obtained by going to APA's web site www.azpilots.org An FAA designator for the field will soon be available. We hope to schedule overnight camping and a "Turkey Shoot" at a nearby shooting range.

It's a really fun place to go. Lot's of history in the area (Grahams vs. Tewksberrys).

APA has been offered a generous donation of a Ford Aerostar Van, to keep at Chapman Ranch Airstrip. Unfortunately the 3.0 Liter V-6 engine is blown. If anyone has knowledge of the location of this type of engine, please advise.