

Medford

Some cabin owners face steep rise in fees

Al and Kay Alsing bought a cabin on the west side of Lake of the Woods in southern Oregon in 1966, paying the U.S. Forest Service \$35 a year in fees for the privilege of using national forestland for recreational housing.

But they say their tenure may end because the fees, which rose to \$1,000 recently, are scheduled to rise again, to about \$6,250 a year.

"It looks like we can't make it," Al Alsing told the Medford Mail Tribune.

A federal law requires the Forest Service to have new appraisals of cabin properties across the nation.

It sets permit fees at 5 percent of the raw land value as decided by local market information. In some cases, the increases will be dramatic because appraisals can be decades old.

The new appraisals will affect 14,000 recreation residences on national forestland. The Oregon-Washington region has the second-highest concentration of these cabins in the nation, with 2,800 residences.

The fees will begin in 2011 and be phased in over three years. Twenty-five percent of the revenue will be given to counties and 75 percent to the federal Treasury.

— *The Associated Press*