

# Council tells Renzi NSA is its top priority

By Cyndy Hardy  
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The Sedona City Council crowned the Red Rock National Scenic Area its No. 1 choice in response to a request from U.S. Rep. Rick Renzi's office for 2006 federal legislative and appropriation priorities.

Councilman John Bradshaw was excused from the meeting.

Councilman Jerry Frey said he is against the NSA designation but that he voted for it because it was bundled with four other priorities, three of which he strongly supported.

The designation will add another layer of government that Sedona doesn't need because of Amendment 12, Frey said. No other national forest in the nation has a protective measure such as Amendment 12, he said.

"Some people want you to believe that Amendment 12 is going away in a few years, but that isn't the case," Frey said.

Sedona has current needs, such as an alternate route and sewer issues, and may have needs in the future that its leaders haven't considered yet, Frey said.

The NSA would also limit tour operations and hamper the city's economic success, he said.

Bradshaw owns a Jeep tour company, A Day in the West. An NSA is too broad, he said, and would take local control out of the community's hands.

"And when you ask [the supporters], 'Will it affect this or that?' they say, 'Oh, we'll put it in the legislation. It's inconceivable that we can think of everything that it may affect,'" Frey said.

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## NSA: Rep. Renzi reluctant to introduce legislation

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In a Sept. 28 article, Jonathan Stephens, the U.S. Forest Service's program manager for congressional designated areas, said, "An NSA is basically what Congress determines them to be."

Members of Keep Sedona Beautiful hugged and shook hands after the vote.

Councilman Dick Ellis and Vice Mayor Ernie Strauch were recently voted to the KSB

governing board, Frey said. "The designation could result in increased sales tax revenues to the city through attraction of higher-quality destination-type stay-over visitors from around the world," KSB member Coleman Greenberg told the council during the public forum.

The designation is further needed to repair damage caused by forest visitors who can't "be briefed" before they enter the forest, Greenberg said.

voted in favor of the priority, is a local real estate agent.

The City Council's top five priorities were rounded out with funding for Hwy. 179, point-source discharge or some appropriate title for it, a regional communication center and Community Development Block Grant funding.

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Frey said that NSA designation does not guarantee additional funds for forest staffing or maintenance.

Renzi has reportedly been reluctant to introduce NSA legislation in the past. Renzi has reportedly received more than \$500,000 in campaign donations from the National Association of Realtors.

Locally, the Sedona Verde Valley Association of Realtors has denounced the scenic area. Mayor Susan Solomon, who