

ASU seeking to sell Camp Tontozona

by [Jeff Metcalfe](#) - Dec. 14, 2008 06:55 PM
The Arizona Republic

Arizona State is seeking bidders interested in purchasing Camp Tontozona, a mountain property which served as preseason training site for the football team for 48 years (1960-2007).

With the construction of an \$8.4 million indoor practice facility on campus, the Sun Devils went to Camp Tontozona for only one day in August for a scrimmage.

ASU's request for proposal for the sale is for 10 acres of the original 39-acre site in the Tonto National Forest including 13 buildings and the main football field near Tonto Creek. ASU plans to retain ownership of undeveloped portions of the property. Sealed proposals are due Jan. 12.

ASU officials were not available for comment Sunday.

The request for proposal states: "While not a prerequisite for selection, the university will give preference to respondents who will seek to preserve and enhance the existing buildings and utilize the property as a camp, retreat or athletic training facility."

Camp Tontozona is 17 miles northeast of Payson. Former football coach Frank Kush came up with the idea for a football training camp away from the metro Phoenix heat after seeing a modest ASU faculty retreat on the site while on a fishing trip. The first Tontozona practice was Sept. 2, 1960.

"The camaraderie that you develop living with players, getting to know them, that was the great thing about Tontozona," Kush recently said. "Then the effort you put into it. I'm talking about the mental efforts, the physical efforts. I thought that was one of the greatest assets that we had, being able to practice out of the heat. If we'd had the (indoor practice) bubble, I'd still want to go to Tontozona."

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