



Published on *The Sierra Vista Herald* (<http://www.svherald.com>)

[Home](#) > Birding cabins will remain empty due to massive fire

Birding cabins will remain empty due to massive fire

By Bill Hess
Herald/Review

SIERRA VISTA — Sitting in a truck Sunday, hail the size of quarters hit the roof, sounding like “machine gun fire,” Tom Beatty said.

He and his wife, Edith, had just returned from taking trash to a collection point when they returned to their property just before a flash flood roared through their property in the upper areas of Miller Canyon.

The owners of Beatty’s Guest Ranch and Orchard lost most of their apple trees during the Monument Fire and now the flood has been the death knell for this season’s visitors, Tom said.

Although the main house, the Beatty’s home, suffered some damage, especially in the basement area, where Edith does washing and drying of clothes, and where a freezer held a half of ton of meat, two of their rental cabins suffered more damage and a third’s damage is unknown because Tom said he can’t get to it yet “but I think it’s okay.”

The damage means he will not be renting out the cabins during the hummingbird season or any other time for awhile.

“We’re out of business. We’re closed down for the season,” Tom said.

The power of the flood was so great boulders the size of four feet by four feet were washed down on to the road and one boulder, which he described “as the size of a Volkswagen” along with a “50-foot tall pine tree” were washed on to his property.

A quarter acre pond in his front yard which was five feet below land, is full of gravel, Tom said.

“The pond is now level with the ground,” he added.

The Beattys also provided environmental support for an endangered species — now called the Chiricahua Leopard frog and previously named the Ramsey Canyon Leopard frog.

Edith said she saw one of the frogs hopping around looking for it’s pond.

Tom added many of the frogs did survive but he is going to have them removed because there no longer is any place on his property for them as the debris and ash filled water and mud has caused major damage to their habitat.

“I’m out of the frog business,” he said.

The force of the flood, “dug a new channel,” he said, adding the wall of water was at least 15 feet high as it went down the original waterway.

During the telephone interview with the Herald/Review, Tom said since his water lines were above ground and now are gone he will have to put new ones in.

While the flood was bad, it wasn’t any worse than one in the late 1970s, he said.

Still having electricity, Tom said he, his wife, and son Tom Jr., will continue to work to bring the property back to life.

They didn’t evacuate during the fire as they continued to water down the structures on the property and they don’t intend to evacuate now.

With a chuckle, Tom said a Department of Public Safety helicopter landed on their property to find out if they were all right.

“I told them we were fine,” he said, and the helicopter flew off.

Although he and Edith are in their 70s, and Tom Jr. in his 40s, hard work has never stopped the family.

But then, with a sigh, Tom said, “You know, I’m getting too old for this.”

If you find a correction for this story, [please contact our editorial department](#) ^[1]

[News](#) [Family Relation](#) [Tom Beatty](#) [Tom Jr](#)
[Home](#) | [Mobile](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Get home delivery](#) | [Media Kit](#) | [Terms of Service](#)

102 Fab Ave
Sierra Vista, AZ. 85635
520-458-9440

Source URL: <http://www.svherald.com/content/news/2011/07/11/211842>

Links:

[1] <http://www.svherald.com/contact>