

1997 Revised Forest Plan Targhee National Forest Recreation Residence Consistency Review - Final March 2005			
Forest Plan Direction	Standards and Guidelines	Current Management - AIP	Palisades District Tracts
<p>Physical Elements, Soils – p. III 6, 7 - Long term soil productivity is sustained by retaining fine organic matter and woody residue on activity areas.</p>	<p>1) Generally strive to maintain fine organic matter over at least 50% of the area. 2) Woody Residue Requirements for Materials 3 " in diameter of larger. See table on page III-7 of RFPTNF.</p>	<p>1. This is currently being met on all the residence areas reviewed. · This is being accomplished and should continue being accomplished by current management. 2. · This guideline is currently NOT being met on any of the residence areas being reviewed, however, the guideline is intended to apply to activity areas. Recreation residence tracts are not considered activity areas according to the RFP glossary definition (p. G-1). Therefore, management is consistent with the RFP.</p>	<p>1. This is currently being met on all the residence areas reviewed. · This is being accomplished and should continue being accomplished by current management. 2. · This guideline is currently NOT being met on any of the residence areas being reviewed, however, the guideline is intended to apply to activity areas. Recreation residence tracts are not considered activity areas according to the RFP glossary definition (p. G-1). Therefore, management is consistent with the RFP.</p>
<p>Biological Elements, Wildlife – p. III 15-16 Wildlife biodiversity is maintained or enhanced by managing for a diverse array of habitats and distribution of plant communities.</p>	<p>1) Dead and Down Material on page III-15 of RFPTNF. 1) Grizzly Bear Habitat on page III-18 of RFPTNF - The grizzly bear education program will focus on residents in residential and summer home areas, developed recreation sites users, wilderness users, hunters, outfitters and guides, and permittees. 1) Bald Eagle Habitat on page III-18 of RFPTNF. A) Minimize all human activities from February 1 to August 1. C) Manage human use on existing roads at levels which do not adversely affect use and productivity of the nest site. D) No new developed recreation sites or facilities in Zone I. Avoid building new recreation sites or facilities in Zone II. E) Managed existing recreation use at levels which do not adversely affect use and productivity of the nest site. G) If eagles choose to establish new nest sites and use areas in an area already receiving human use, the human activities may be restricted or modified. Expanded human activity, however, should be discouraged.</p>	<p>For Big Springs, Buffalo and Moose Creek Tracts: Dead and Down... These guidelines are not being met within the summer home areas. However the guideline states that it should be met on at least 60% of the forested acres in an analysis area. Within each management prescription area this guideline is being met. Ø Grizzly bear education program... This guideline has been met by including information directly to home owners with their yearly billing, through information available at the Island Park Ranger Station, and in 2004 by door to door visits by a district wildlife technician. Ø Bald eagle habitat items A- M... These standards and guidelines apply to Zones I and II of the territory (nest stand and primary use area). None of the three summer residence areas fall within Zones I or II of any active or historic eagle territory.</p>	<p>See Palisades Tracts Wildlife attachments.</p>

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<p>Island Park Subsection Management Direction</p>	<p>This area will have improved recreation access and quality, particularly on the Highway 47-Mesa Falls Scenic Byway and for snowmobile use linked to West Yellowstone. (p. III-48)</p>	<p>Buffalo, Moose Creek and Big Springs Tracts Buffalo Summer Homes; the road system seems to be in good shape and being maintained to some extent. There is a little ATV activity under the power line and a little in the adjacent old clear cut unit that runs along the side of the Summer Home area. The River Side Road or the extreme road on the North side of the Summer Home area will be getting quite a bit of traffic on it when the construction begins on the Buffalo River Dam and Fish Passage Project.</p> <p>Big Springs Tracts; There does not seem to be any road problems with either side of the river and Summer Homes.</p> <p>The Forest Plan direction is being met overall for the recreation residence tracts located in this subsection.</p>	<p>Does Not Apply.</p>
<p>Big Hole Mountains Subsection Management Direction: This subsection will provide a diverse range of recreation opportunities at different locations within the subsection. (p. III-60)</p>	<p>Objective –Properly Functioning Condition By 2007, develop a fire management plan which considers summer home development and risk around the Palisades Reservoir. Objective – Heritage Resources Complete heritage resources inventory of this subsection by 2007. (p. III-60, 61)</p>	<p>Does Not Apply.</p>	<p>Sheep Creek and Alpine Tracts: Vegetation Plans and actions are being developed by the Palisades Ranger District to be implemented in the next few years. This objective is being met. Heritage Resources objective is for the entire subsection not just the recreation residence tracts. In Recreation Residence tracts review current summer home data and determine if any rec residences in the tract meet the age guidelines as defined in National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). If no properties meet the age standard, dates will be noted and no further management action will occur. If dates do meet age requirement, then the site will be recorded and evaluated for significance. If a site is determined significant (as outlined in NHPA) a management/treatment plan will be created. If a site is determined not-significant, this will be noted and the property will be managed as such. This is being met.</p>

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<p>Caribou Range Mountains Subsection: Recreation will emphasize dispersed recreation opportunities, and semi-primitive backcountry experiences while providing high-quality motorized use on designated trail systems. The recreational use around Palisades Reservoir and the South Fork of the Snake River will continue but be balanced with the needs of wildlife and other resources. (p. III-64)</p>	<p>Develop a fire management plan which allows for natural fire and which considers summer home development and risk around the Palisades Reservoir.</p>	<p>Does Not apply.</p>	<p>Hoffman, Palisades, and Calamity Tracts: Vegetation Plans and actions are being developed by the Palisades Ranger District to be implemented in the next few years. This goal is being met. Dispersed opportunities and semi-primitive backcountry are not applicable to summer home management.</p> <p>Management around the reservoir and South Fork of the Snake River has not changed since implementation of RTFP. Balance with wildlife and other resources are occurring.</p> <p>RTFP Caribou subsection DFC is being met.</p>
<p>Prescription 4.2 Special Use Permit Recreation Sites - p. III 128-130</p> <p>This prescription applies to ski areas, resorts, summer home sites and organization camps (such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America) that are allowed under a special use permit.</p> <p>The emphasis is on providing privately operated types of recreation on National Forest land for large concentrated groups of people. Overall, you may find many signs of people. You see little or no evidence of resource development except for recreation. Cabins and buildings used by permittees are visible but blend into the surroundings. Roads are generally graveled, but may be paved in higher use areas. OHV use is limited to entry and departure routes and for administrative purposes. In some areas you may see extensive development associated with ski areas or resorts...(p. III-128)</p>	<p>Standards and Guidelines: Forestwide standards and guidelines apply.</p>	<p>Buffalo, Moose Creek and Big Springs Tracts: The Recreation Residence Permits for Buffalo, Big Springs and Moose Creek Tracts are administered using a set of guidelines that were developed jointly by the Forest Service and Permittees. These guidelines emphasize the use of techniques that provide for a blending in of improvements with the natural surroundings.</p> <p>Roads in the tracts are gravel or native surface with selected areas receiving dust abatement.</p> <p>The Ashton/Island Park Travel Plan restricts OHV travel in the tracts to Forest Roads only. These areas are part of a regular patrol for travel plan violations.</p> <p>The Buffalo, Big Springs and Moose Creek Recreation Residence Tracts are in compliance with the Forest Plan Standards and Guides.</p>	<p>All Palisades District tracts: Setting has not changed since implementation of the RTFP. Prescription 4.2 setting description is being met.</p>

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<p>Goals: Provide for privately operated recreation use. Protect and enhance a natural appearing environment to the extent possible while providing for private and group recreation opportunities.</p>			
<p>Strive to incorporate opportunities for watchable wildlife.</p>		<p>The Big Springs Boardwalk allows wildlife and riparian plant community viewing in the Big Springs Rec Residence area.</p>	<p>Goals, Standard and Guidelines for Prescription area 4.2 are being met. Areas have not changed. Watchable wildlife opportunities are being met.</p>
<p>Ecological Processes and Patterns</p>	<p>Insects and Disease Control Insects and disease consistent with visual objectives.</p>	<p>Vegetation treatment planned for the tracts includes removal of trees from the powerline corridors serving the residences. In addition the needed thinning and removal of trees adjacent to the residences was identified during the compliance reviews done during the 2004 summer and will be part of what is required from the residence owners. This is being met.</p>	<p>Due to the drought and tree aging, insect population have increased significantly throughout the Forest causing sever tree mortality in certain areas. Palisades Summer Home tract is particularly affected. Visual objectives are not being met for this tract. (See fire/fuels and recreation discussion.) All other tract visual objectives are currently being met. Vegetation treatment is planned for all tracts in the near future to remove dead and dying trees and to reduce the insect populations. Vegetation treatment plans as recommended by the Forest Service will bring all tracts to consistency with the RTFP. This direction is being met as per vegetation plans.</p>
<p>Fire/Fuels</p>	<p>All wildfires that threaten these areas will be aggressively suppressed. Prescribed fire generally will not apply here. It may be used, however, to achieve resource objectives. Natural fuels will be reduced or otherwise treated so the potential fireline intensities will not exceed 100 BTU per second per foot on 90 percent of the days during the regular fire season (Burning Index < 40).</p>	<p>Buffalo, Moose Creek and Big Springs Tracts: During the summer field seasons of 2001 and 2002 hazardous fuels surveys were conducted within the Big Springs, Buffalo River, and the Moose Creek summer home areas. The data was entered into the fire behavior model Behaveplus2 and the results show that the Forest Service is in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines set forth in the Revised Forest Plan (RFP) under the prescription 4.2.</p> <p>Prior to the surveys most of the areas around the private structures were cleaned up with forest crews and the adjacent home owners. Some of the heavier fuel concentrations are located along the banks of the Buffalo River and Moose Creek. Adjacent home owners are encouraged to continue to clean around their homes and to utilize dead material to reduce the fire danger. These efforts have contributed to the Forest Service complying with the RFP.</p>	<p>All Palisades summer home areas currently have higher than normal fuel loads. This was determined by “walkthroughs” with the zone FMO and AFMO. The district is in the early stages of planning to reduce these fuel loads by treating vegetation mechanically and with prescribed fire which depends on the summer home area and its needs. Precise needs will be developed once fuel surveys are complete. Home owners, under Forest Service Direction, have been encouraged to clean around their homes and to utilize the dead material to reduce the fire danger. Areas immediately around the homes are meeting current prescription standards as the dead wood has been removed. Because of the insect activity dead fuels have increased to the point where work on a larger scale is needed to keep within the standard. The summer home areas are not currently in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines in the Revised Targhee Forest Plan under the prescription 4.2 due to insect created heavy fuels loading.</p>

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			These areas will be brought into compliance through the proposed vegetation treatments and prescribed fire plan in the near future.
Physical Elements: Soil and Water	Use rehabilitation techniques that do not detract from the recreation opportunity. Avoid new construction on unstable or highly erosive soils. On new developments provide adequate vegetation filters to maintain and/or enhance riparian dependent resources.	These are currently being met on all the residence areas reviewed.	These are currently being met on all the residence areas reviewed. However there are homes, not new construction, built on unstable soils in the Hoffman Summer Home Area.
Lands	Corridor rights-of-way will avoid summer homes and group facilities. Continue existing recreation residence permits under specific subsection direction and the following conditions for specific areas: a) Implement the Big Springs Summer Home Agreement. b) New recreation residence tracts (summer homes) will not be established. No new residences will be permitted on vacant lots that are no longer leased unless necessary to replace lots damaged by landslides at the Hoffman site or to implement the Big Springs court order. Do not consider Buffalo, Moose Creek and Big Springs summer home areas for land exchange.	The corridor rights-of-way within the summer home areas are the powerline corridors that provide power to the summer homes. The Big Springs Summer Home Agreement has been implemented. No new tracts have been established and no new residences are permitted on vacant lots.	The only utility right-of-ways within the summer home development are those for use for the home owners. These existed prior to RTFP development. No new corridor exists and none is planned. (a) N/A (b) No new summer homes tracts have been established. No vacant lots have been permitted. At this time no new lots have been allowed on the Hoffman tract because there has not been a need. This direction is being met.
Minerals/Geology	Locatable – Withdraw from mineral entry, or removed from mineral entry through the notation rule, subject to valid existing rights. Mineral Material – No entry for mineral materials.	Withdrawal of these lands from mineral entry has not occurred. Processing a mineral withdrawal is a very time-consuming process that ultimately requires a final decision by the Secretary of Interior. In the past, the Secretary has been reluctant to create withdrawals for lands where the mineral development potential is low. These lands are believed to have a low development potential for locatable minerals. Entry for mineral materials is a Forest Service controlled activity; no entry within these lands is planned.	Withdrawal of these lands from mineral entry has not occurred. Processing a mineral withdrawal is a very time-consuming process that ultimately requires a final decision by the Secretary of Interior. In the past, the Secretary has been reluctant to create withdrawals for lands where the mineral development potential is low. These lands are believed to have a low development potential for locatable minerals. Entry for mineral materials is a Forest Service controlled activity; no entry within these lands is planned.
Biological Elements Wildlife	Projects that allow selected wildlife species to be more visible to recreation users may be allowed when compatible with special use permit recreation sites. Animal Damage Control – Animal damage control generally will not be done on these sites because of potential conflicts with recreation users and their pets, except for control of problem bears, beavers, porcupines, etc.	For Big Springs, Buffalo and Moose Creek Tracts: The Big Springs Boardwalk allows wildlife and riparian plant community viewing in the Big Springs Rec Residence area. Animal damage control activities have not been done in the Rec residence areas.	See Palisades Tracts Wildlife attachments.

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Plants	Projects or events that focus on the identification and/or uses of plants are allowed where compatible with special use permits and the activities do not degrade the vegetation at the facility.	There are no activities of this type associated with recreation residence tracts. Any projects or events would be designed to be compatible.	There are no activities of this type associated with recreation residence tracts. Any projects or events would be designed to be compatible.
Forest Use and Occupation Access	See Access Table 4.2 on p. III-130 in TNFRFP.	Access management within the summer home tract has not changed since the implementation of the RTFP. This direction is being met. These areas are closed to cross-country ATV travel and are part of regular patrol areas for ATV users.	Access management within the summer home tract has not changed since the implementation of the RTFP. This direction is being met.
Recreation	<p>Developed – Natural vegetation should be favored around facilities. However, mowing natural vegetation around facilities may be allowed.</p> <p>Trails – Trails may be allowed for the convenience of people using these sites.</p> <p>Short trails are allowed which provide access to facilities and opportunities for interpretation.</p> <p>ROS – Roaded natural to urban.</p> <p>VQO – Managed for a full range from partial retention to maximum modification. Facilities are often evident, but harmonize and blend with the natural setting.</p>	<p>Guidelines are in place for administration of the Recreation Residence Special Use Permits on the Ashton/Island Park Ranger District. These guidelines were developed jointly by the Forest Service and Recreation Residence Permittees. These guidelines outline the procedures to be followed for any changes of the facilities or on the ground within each individual lot. An emphasis is placed on the use of naturally occurring vegetation. Only material that blends in with the natural surroundings are allowed to be used in construction.</p> <p>Through the use of these guidelines the Recreation Residence Tracts are managed within the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and Visual Quality Objectives that are outlined in Forest Plan.</p> <p>Through this review Buffalo, Moose Creek and Big Springs Recreation Residence Tracts are meeting the direction of the Forest Plan.</p>	<p>Guidelines are in place for administration of the Recreation Residence Special Use Permits on the Palisades Ranger District. These guidelines outline the procedures to be followed for any changes of the facilities or on the ground within each individual lot. An emphasis is placed on the use of naturally occurring vegetation. Only material that blends in with the natural surroundings are allowed to be used in construction. No mowing is being done around any summer home lot. There are a few trails within the tracts. These trails are short and generally go between houses. No trail construction has been done.</p> <p>All tracts are maintained as roaded natural areas.</p> <p>Through the use of these guidelines the Recreation Residence Tracts are managed within the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and Visual Quality Objectives that are outlined in Forest Plan.</p> <p>All tracts on the District meet the direction of the Forest Plan. However, because of the heavy insect activity, particularly in the Palisades Recreational Tract, visual objectives must be restored through the planned vegetation treatment action currently being planned by the District. This action will bring Palisades Recreational tract consistent with visual quality objectives.</p>
Production of Commodity Resources Range	<p>Unless grazing activities are needed to meet recreation objectives, or unless authorized by special use or grazing permit, grazing of recreation stock and other livestock will not be allowed in special use recreation sites.</p> <p>Grazing activities may be allowed in and around facilities designed for livestock use.</p>	No grazing is allowed within the recreation residence tracts.	None of the tracts are grazed by livestock. This direction is met.

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Timber	<p>Developed recreation sites are removed from the suitable timber base. These lands do not contribute to the ASQ. All vegetation treatment options are available, but only as required to meet specific recreation objectives. Stipulate removal of unsafe and/or dead trees in the special use permit. Native species may be planted to provide cover when naturally-occurring vegetation is inadequate.</p>	<p>According to the RFP, developed recreation sites are removed from the suitable timber base and do not contribute to the ASQ. Vegetation treatments are available but they must meet specific recreation objectives. No commercial timber harvest is expected in these areas. However, if timber harvest were to occur it would not contribute to the ASQ and would have specific objectives to meet recreation and visual needs. Examples of objectives would include tree thinning to increase tree health and vigor and salvage to reduce hazardous trees.</p> <p>The RFP guideline states that the removal of unsafe or dead trees should be made part of the special use permit. This is part of the special use permit to reduce public safety hazards.</p> <p>These areas are meeting the Forest Plan standards and guidelines in relation to timber resources.</p>	<p>The RTFP states that developed recreation sites are removed from the suitable timber base and do not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity (RTFP 111-131). This direction is being met. Vegetation treatments remain an option to meet specific recreation needs. No commercial timber sales are planned for these recreation areas. However, vegetative treatment is planned to reduce dead and dying trees within and around the summer home tracts. These plans are a planned effort to respond to the current buildup of insect populations. Commercial thinnings will be proposed in the Calamity, Palisades, Sheep Creek, Hoffman, and Alpine summer home areas to reduce stand susceptibility to insects. These proposals are in the beginning stages of planning. The summer home areas are not currently in full compliance with the Standards and Guidelines set forth in the Revised Targhee Forest Plan under the prescription 4.2 due to the insect infestation, (removal of unsafe or dead trees). These areas are proposed to be brought under compliance t</p>



