



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pike and San Isabel
National Forests
Cimarron and Comanche
National Grasslands

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RECREATION RESIDENCE PERMIT HOLDERS

xx, CO x

Dear Permit Holder:

All special use authorizations issued by the Forest Service for recreation residences in the Rocky Mountain Region expire in 2008. Individuals, banks, and other interested parties have asked whether new permits for recreation residences will be issued.

Forest Service policy states that Recreation Residences are a valid use of National Forest System lands. The Forest Service, wherever possible, will continue Recreation Residence use, and work in partnership with holders of these permits to maximize the recreation benefits of these residences. Congress, through the Cabin Users Fee Fairness Act of 2000, has stated that the purpose of the act was to "ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the National Forest System recreation residence program is managed to preserve the opportunity for individual and family oriented recreation."

Prior to permit expiration, the Forest Service will conduct a review to determine the consistency of the recreation residence use with the Forests Land and Resource Management Plan where recreation residences are located. In addition to the consistency reviews, the Forest Service will conduct a continuance determination or an environmental analysis, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), on the continuance of the Recreation Residence tract to use and occupy National Forest System lands. Some of this work may already have been started. The last step of this process is the recreation residence inspections. Each permit holder will be required to be in compliance with the terms and conditions of their current permits prior the issuance of a new 20-year permit. The Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands should be making these decisions no later than December 31, 2006, and will notify Recreation Residence permit holders when those decisions are made.

Consequently, the length of time for which a new permit will be issued beyond December 31, 2008 will be dependent on the outcome of the above referenced environmental analysis and recreation residence lot inspections. If that analysis results in a forest decision that either (a) identifies an alternative public purpose for the tract, or (b) determines that recreation residence uses are for some reason inconsistent with the Forest Plan, then cabin owners will be notified and issued a new non-renewable permit for only ten years beyond the current termination date of December 31, 2008.



If, however, the forest determines that these recreation residence uses are (a) consistent with the Forest Plan or can be made consistent, (b) there are no alternative public purposes identified for the tract, and (c) the site is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the current permit, then the recreation residence permit holders within the tract will be issued a new twenty-year term special use permit to December 31, 2028.

The goal of the Forest Service and the Pike and San Isabel National Forests is to issue 20-year term permits to all qualified recreation residence permit holders by the end of calendar year 2008. With your cooperation, we can reach this goal.

Over the next few years, the Forest Service will be performing site specific, comprehensive compliance inspections for all recreation residences (some of these may have already been done). If you are in non-compliance with your current permit, you will be notified by no later than December 31, 2006. If the non-compliance is not corrected by December 31, 2008, a short term non-renewable permit will be issued.

You can assist the Forest Service with this process by reviewing your special use authorization and other relevant information. This will give you an understanding of what may need to be corrected to assure the issuance of a new 20-year permit.

Enclosed for your review are the following documents:

- A copy of your recreation residence special use authorization
- Sample of an operations and maintenance plan
- Sample of a permit inspection form
- Pike and San Isabel National Forests Recreation Residence management standards

As you can see by the information I am providing with this letter, it is important to have a thorough understanding of the terms and conditions of your permit. Your involvement in maintaining your recreation residence to the required standards is an important part in the process.

We look forward to a smooth working relationship during this process. I encourage you to contact David Crumley of my staff at (719) 553-1501 or the recreation staff at the Ranger District, which issued your individual permit, with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert J. Leaverton
ROBERT J. LEAVERTON
Forest Supervisor