



File Code: 2720

Date: June 9, 2004

Dear Permit Holder:

With summer and good weather approaching, many of you are coming up to open up your cabins and enjoy the lake. We are already starting to get requests for projects you would like to do this season. I'd like to go over a few reminders and information on new procedures and time lines for proposed projects.

First, be familiar with your recreation residence permit. Your permit is a legal document and by signing, you have agreed to abide by the terms and conditions. I suggest you review your permit at least annually and a good time to do so would be before you head up to your cabin for the summer.

Archeology Resources: Because of the workload coming over the next few years associated with the process of issuing new recreation residence permits in 2009, and the increased complexity in project approval, some changes need to be made in the way we conduct business. Because of increased emphasis nationally regarding archeological resources and how they relate to the Forest Service requirements to comply with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1986, effective immediately, an Archeologist must review your proposals for improvements or additions prior to approval. This will affect many of the projects you may want to do, since the Historic Preservation Act includes changes to structures, as well as projects that require any amount of ground disturbance.

The importance of the archeological resources in the Priest Lake area has increased over the years. This has occurred through a series of events, including a heightened awareness of the resources from findings on Bartoo Island, and interest by the Kalispel Tribe of Indians in the history at Priest Lake. This new information has led to the need for the Forest Service to consider these resources even more in project implementation. What this requires is an Archeologist will need to verify the potential of a site for archeological resources, along with documentation and inventories prior to any projects involving the movement of dirt or exterior changes where the architecture has historical significance.

The importance of protecting archeological resources requires changes to how we conduct the approval process for construction activities. Be aware the following may greatly affect timelines for approval.

Construction Plans:

- a) Plans need to be submitted *at least 6 months in advance* of your proposed start date. Projects such as painting, staining or reroofing may not require this much advance notice, however, it is your responsibility to obtain permission in advance on any project you propose to do on National Forest System lands.



- b) Requests for projects involving *any* amount of ground disturbance or involving construction changes to the exterior appearance or dimensions of your cabin or other permitted improvements will generally require archeological review. You may want submit a conceptual plan for proposed work so that the scope of archeological review needs can be determined.
- c) If archeological services are needed for proposed construction, the permit holder will be required to secure these services, consistent with federal requirements, prior to project approval.

Although the Forest Service does use a staff Archeologist for agency activities, this individual serves three Ranger Districts and is not available to support recreation residence permit activities this season. If you do have a proposal that you feel must proceed this year, the following are two options for you to consider when proposing new construction:

- 1) You may hire a third party contract Archeologist to conduct the necessary Section 106 compliance work. A list of Archeologists who perform this type of work can be provided to you.
- 2) If an emergency comes up based on a health or safety concern, you *may* be able to enter into a collection agreement with the Forest Service. This allows the Forest Service to collect the money from you that is necessary to pay the overtime rate for a Forest Service Archeologist and a Permit Administrator in order to complete the work.

Some folks have begun to make requests for construction projects with just a few days advance notice of their planned start date. We cannot accommodate approving projects on this short of notice. Please remember, before you propose a project and hire a contractor, contact your permit administrator to see if the concept is even allowable. Once a proposal is accepted, plans need to be provided for our review and approval. Other work, such as general clean up of your lots and interior construction may continue as usual. Hazard trees may be marked upon request.

Recreation Residence Consistency Review and Continuance Process:

Forest Service policy directs the agency to determine if recreation residences are consistent with the Forest Plan, and individually if the permitted improvements are in compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit prior to issuing a new term permit. This process will determine whether to issue a new 20-year permit for continued authorization of your recreation residence when the current permits terminate on December 31, 2008. As part of the initial stages of this process, a complete inspection of your permitted cabin and lot will be conducted. Items may be found that need to be brought into compliance before we will consider issuing a new permit. Some minor items that you may want to look at, and make plans to update at this time include:

- a) Trim and doors – there are quite a few trim colors that do not conform with the Standards and Guidelines, such as shades of blue, red, yellow and white. These items would be simple for you to correct at this time.
- b) Electrical – some of the outside electrical is not up to code. This includes on and off-lot improvements, as well as other uses that intercept the public Beach Trail or other public access. This is something to consider upgrading or finding documentation in your files that it meets code.

- c) Unauthorized construction or construction that does not meet the Standards and Guidelines – some of you may be asked to repair, remove or modify buildings or other structures on your lot in order to meet the Standards and Guidelines.
- d) Decks – many decks have railings that do not meet code. These will need to be upgraded prior to issuance of a new permit.

More information will be made available on this process later this summer. The formal inspections will not be conducted until 2005.

Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines: The updated Standards and Guidelines will hopefully be ready for publication this fall. The guidelines have primarily been updated for clarification, and to include a few new items that were not discussed in the current 1986 edition. One change we are working towards is lowering the maximum allowable square footage of the recreation residence. The intent of a recreation residence is for single-family recreation use in a forest setting. It is important to keep the cabins at a size that fits well in the unique rustic setting at Priest Lake. Nationwide, over 55% of the recreation residences are less than 1400 square feet in size.

Recently, you should have received a survey from the Permittees Association on the proposed square footage change. The Permittees Association has been working closely with the Forest Service on all of the proposed changes to the current Standards and Guidelines.

Brush/Slash Disposal: Burning permits are in effect at this time. You may pick one up at the Ranger Station. If you choose to burn slash on your lot, do not burn it on the beach. Small beach fires in an enclosed fire pan are allowed, however larger fires to burn slash need to be kept away from the lake. If you do not want to burn brush and slash, you have the option of hauling it to the Dickensheet Transfer site for disposal.

Fireworks: The possession and use of fireworks on National Forest System land is strictly prohibited, no matter what time of year. Over the Fourth of July, please plan to watch one of the over the lake fireworks displays rather than risk being cited or worse, starting a fire which could threaten your cabin and others and the natural beauty of the area.

Sanitation Management: One of the special features of the Priest Lake area is the abundance and variety of wildlife. In order to keep bears and other wildlife conflicts to a minimum, the following are required:

- a) Garbage – outdoor garbage cans will not be allowed. Garbage must be kept inside of your cabin, garage or storage building until it can be taken to one of the garbage transfer sites.
- b) Pet food – pet food must be stored inside. If you feed your pet outside, any leftover food needs to be brought indoors after feeding time.
- c) Refrigerators and freezers – outdoor refrigerators and freezers will not be allowed. If you have these extra appliances, they need to be kept inside of the cabin, garage or storage shed.
- d) Bear Resistant Garbage Cans – if you are interested in purchasing a standard model bear resistant garbage can, either as an individual, or one to be shared by a number of cabin owners, information on designs and ordering can be provided to you.

- e) If you do have a bear of concern in your area, and are following the guidelines listed above, call Rob Soumas, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) at (208) 448-2302. IDFG is responsible for determining if a bear is a problem and removing it if it is.

Garbage Transfer Sites: Garbage transfer sites (dumpsters) are located in three places near the lake. The Hanna Flats site is located approximately one mile west of Highway 57, just north of the Ranger Station. The 11 Mile site is located west of Highway 57 at the 11-mile marker. The Dickensheet Transfer site is located east of the Dickensheet junction on the way to Coolin.

The summer operating hours for at the Hanna Flats site is 800am to 400pm, 7 days a week. The 11 Mile site is open 7 days a week, 730am to 430pm. These sites are for household garbage only.

The summer operating hours for the Dickensheet site is 700am to 500pm, 7 days a week. If you have material other than household garbage, such as excess building material, old appliances, etc., you may dispose of these items here. Many of these items can be disposed of free of charge if you present proof that you have a residence in Idaho. Dickensheet also provides recycling facilities. For information call (208) 443-3007.

Priest Lake Ranger Station Office Hours: The office hours are Monday through Friday, 730am to 400pm, phone number (208) 443-2512. If you need to report a forest fire emergency, please call (208) 772-3283.

Lakeface/Lamb Fuel Reduction Stewardship Project: Several units were logged over the winter. Currently, logging operations are winding down for the summer. There will be some grapple piling in previously logged units in preparation for fall burning. There may be additional road and fuels reduction work that will occur this summer, but no work is planned around the recreation residences. If you would like more detailed information, please contact Grant Brockus, Timber Sale Administrator at (208) 443-6814.

Permit Administration: Debbie Butler continues to act as your permit administrator. She should be the first person you contact for any questions regarding your recreation residence. Please remember Debbie has many other duties besides managing the recreation residence program and summer is her busy season so please allow adequate time for her to respond to your requests. Debbie can be reached directly at (208) 443-6822 and her e-mail address is dabutler@fs.fed.us.

I hope you will have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

/Kathy Murphy/

KATHY MURPHY
District Ranger
Cc: SO