



File Code: 2720

Date: August 11, 2005

Dear Permit Holder:

Since many of you were not at the annual Priest Lake Permittees Association meeting on Saturday August 6, I want to make sure information is getting to all of you regarding management of your recreation residence permits, and the time lines we will be dealing with over the next few years as we work on the process to issue new 20-year term permits.

As a reminder, it is your responsibility to be familiar with your recreation residence permit, along with the Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines that are a part of the permit and abide by these terms and conditions. Following are some items that were stressed last year and I want to highlight them again.

### **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 expire 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 I will consider issuing a new permit.

The following items are some common ones you may want to look at, and make plans to update. The approval process for these items is generally easy, allowing you to accomplish them right away.

- a) **Decks** – many decks have railings that do not meet code. The railings must be upgraded prior to issuance of a new permit to be in compliance with the Uniform Building Code. For clarification, decks over 30 inches in height above ground level must have a railing at least 36 inches tall. In addition, the balusters must be no more than 4 inches apart (a sphere 4 inches in diameter cannot go between the balusters).
- b) **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. Painting would be easy to accomplish at this time.
- c) **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, such as lights at your pumphouse or at the beach. The electrical will need to be brought up to code prior to issuance of a new permit.
- d) **Lot Clean-up** – although this is an ongoing process, some of the lots have accumulations of dead trees, brush, debris, old building material, etc. that needs to be removed.



- e) **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.
- f) **Docks** – make sure your dock permit is issued in your name (permit holder). You will need to contact the Idaho Department of Lands in order to correct this. Their phone number is (208) 443-2516.

Please use a critical eye to determine if your use is allowed under the permit and Standards and Guidelines and if something is not allowed, make plans to remove it. Over the years, some lots have gradually developed more items than allowed. An example is along the beach where storage boxes, barbeques, etc. have been placed, creating more of a developed “permanent” appearance.

Although formal inspections will not be conducted until the summer of 2006, Debbie Butler will be more than happy to meet with you this year to conduct an informal inspection so you know what you may be required to do. This will allow you to get started early so you can be in compliance. More information on the formal inspection schedule will be provided at a later date. ***Please take this process seriously, as compliance will be necessary for you to be eligible for a new 20-year term permit.***

**Construction/Lot Change Plans/Ground Disturbance:** Proposals for anything other than compliance issues associated with issuance of a new term permit or safety issues will generally **not** be considered at this time. In addition, the following steps apply to many compliance items as well as all new proposals:

- a) Plans need to be submitted ***at least 6 months*** in advance of your proposed start date. This includes proposals that would change the outside appearance of your cabin, such as an addition or remodel, as well as any proposals that require ground-disturbing activities. 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 will need to submit a conceptual plan for proposed work so that the scope of archeological review needs can be determined.

Some folks have begun to make requests for construction projects with just a few days advance notice of their planned start date. I will **not** consider 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.

**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 National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, an Archeologist must review your proposals for improvements or additions prior to obtaining approval. This will affect many of the projects you may want to do, since the National Historic Preservation Act includes changes to structures, as well as projects that require any amount of ground disturbance. The importance of protecting archeological resources requires changes and the need to bring your improvements into full compliance will change how we conduct the approval process for construction activities.

There will typically be two heritage aspects to most proposals. The lakeshore area is known to have a potential for prehistoric sites. An archeologist therefore needs to review ground-disturbing projects. The other aspect is the historical character of all of the recreation residences themselves.

For minor alterations our staff may be available to review and consult the State Historic Preservation Office to comply with the law. Another option is for you to hire a contract archeologist. If you want to hire an archeologist, you must first get approval in advance from the Forest Service so contact your permit administrator well in advance to find out the details.

**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 campfires 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, several cabin owners were involved in illegal use of fireworks. Do not let this illegal activity potentially affect your privilege of having a cabin on National Forest System lands.

**Dogs:** There are starting to be problems with dogs at the recreation residences, instances such as dogs guarding the Beach Trail, running after people and preventing the public and other cabin owners from feeling comfortable using certain areas. Remember, it is public land and you will need to control or contain your pets in a manner that keeps the public and pet safe.

**Garbage Transfer Sites:** Garbage transfer sites (dumpsters) are located in two places near the lake. 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. Dickensheet provides recycling facilities. For information on either site 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.

**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](mailto:dabutler@fs.fed.us). If you contact Debbie by e-mail, be sure to include in the subject line that the message pertains to your recreation residence. There are many viruses circulating and our instructions are to delete e-mails of unknown origin.

I would like to stress once again, that unless you have a proposal that is a health or safety hazard, or compliance matter, until we get through the permit reissuance process, there will be very little opportunity for new proposals to be processed.

Sincerely,

*/Kathy Murphy/*

KATHY MURPHY  
District Ranger  
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