



File Code: 2720

Date: June 5, 2008

Dear Permit Holder:

Once again summer is here and I hope you will enjoy the lake and all it has to offer. As you know, there are several processes that we continue to work on including implementation of the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act (CUFFA), issuing new term permits that include compliance with your individual inspection for your cabin and other improvements located on your lot, and an environmental analysis process to approve the new permits. In addition we will soon have the appraisals that will be used to determine your base fees for the next ten year period. Following are more details on these important topics:

- ❖ **Appraisals:** The Forest Service should receive the appraisals by the end of June. To receive a copy of the appraisal that was conducted for your typical lot grouping, you must make a request in writing.

A detailed **certified letter** will be mailed to you shortly. ***Please do not request an appraisal until you receive this letter as it will explain the specific requirements*** to request a copy. In addition this letter will explain how to accept the appraisal or how to request a second appraisal, including required time lines.

CUFFA information and the typical lots and lot grouping maps are still available for viewing or downloading on our website at: www.fs.fed.us/ipnf, then click on the "Summer Homes" link.

- ❖ **Recreation Residence Inspections:**

You were mailed a copy of your individual inspection in March 2007. Please complete all items noted on your inspection by **August 31, 2008** unless otherwise noted on the inspection. Remember that all items identified on your inspection need to be brought into compliance prior to issuance of a new term permit.

Debbie Butler will be available to assist you with questions regarding your compliance items. This summer I have asked Debbie to focus her efforts on permit issues dealing with compliance, CUFFA, and the permit renewal process. Please remember that Debbie is working across the forest with recreation permit holders on the Coeur d' Alene, Sandpoint, and St. Joe Ranger Districts so she will be unavailable at various times throughout the summer. Please call ahead to make an appointment with Debbie. She can be reached at (208) 443-6822. If you need some general forest, recreation or other information, please contact the main office at (208) 443-2512.

Final Inspection Schedule:

Debbie would like to conduct as many final inspections as possible prior to the required completion date of August 31, 2008, therefore, if you feel you have completed all of the required items listed on your inspection, please contact her. Unless you request to meet with Debbie, she will complete these inspections on her schedule. If you are present when she does her final inspection she will be happy to answer your questions or concerns in person.

Proposals for New Construction: As a reminder, we will not accept any new proposals outside of compliance, safety or health issues **until at least 2009.** This is due to the large workload associated with both CUFFA implementation and the permit renewal process. Once this renewal process and CUFFA



implementation are complete we will apprise all permit holders when we will begin accepting new proposals and the associated process to submit new proposals.

A limited number of construction projects are currently ongoing. These proposals were initiated and the projects were approved prior to our current moratorium.

Following is some general information you might find helpful in planning your summer activities:

Priest Lake Ranger Station Office Hours: The office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. To 4:00 p.m. (Closed Holidays); phone number (208) 443-2512. If you need to report a forest fire emergency, please call 1-800-CDA-FIRE (232-3473).

Fireworks: The possession and use of fireworks on National Forest System lands is strictly prohibited during the entire year.

Garbage and Food Storage: Unsecured storage of garbage, recyclable items, food and pet food is not acceptable. All food and garbage must be stored inside your cabin, a storage shed, vehicle trunk or an approved bear resistant garbage container. Storage of food in an ice chest on your deck or outside is not an acceptable method. Information on approved bear resistant garbage cans will be made available upon request.

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. Both sites provide recycling facilities. For information on either site call (208) 443-3007.

West Lakeshore Road: Bonner County administers this road. Please contact the Bonner County Road and Bridge Department at (208) 255-5681 with questions regarding the West Lakeshore Road.

Brush/Slash Disposal: Burning permits are required for slash disposal and are available at the Ranger Station. Please do not burn slash on the beach. Small beach campfires in an enclosed area are allowed, however larger fires for slash disposal need to be kept away from the lake. Another option is to haul the slash and yard debris to the Dickensheet Transfer site for disposal.

Dogs: Many of you enjoy bringing your canine family members with you to your cabin. There have been some instances with 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.

Public Use of Beach Trail and Beaches: Please remember the Beach Trail (Trail #48) and the beaches that you enjoy are open to the general public. The public can use the beach areas but cannot interfere with your permitted improvements. As use continues to increase at Priest Lake and more people want to enjoy the lake, I ask that you help avoid conflicts of these public areas. When you are not using your personal items or when you are not at your cabin for extended periods of time please consolidate your belongings such as small boats (canoes, rafts), lawn chairs, etc., as much as possible.

Personnel Changes:

A new Deputy District Ranger has been hired who will be stationed at Priest Lake. His name is DeWayne Thornburgh. He is scheduled to start work at Priest Lake on June 23.

Permit Administration: Debbie Butler is your permit administrator. Please contact her for any questions regarding your recreation residence. Please remember that Debbie's responsibilities now span across a larger geographic area (the entire Idaho Panhandle National Forests). Please allow her adequate time to respond to your requests. Debbie can be reached directly at (208) 443-6822 and her e-mail address is 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.

Thank you for all the hard work in bringing your cabins into compliance with the items identified in your inspection. Meeting the requirements outlined in these inspections allows us to issue 20-year term permits. I want to welcome you back to Priest Lake with my wishes for a safe and fun summer.

Sincerely,

KENT WELLNER
Acting District Ranger

Cc: SO