



**Recreation Residence Compliance
Stanislaus National Forest
May 2008**



UPDATE

We are in the final stretch! It's been a long journey, but we see light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you for all your patience, cooperation and hard work. Our records indicate that all follow-up and or reconsideration requests have been completed. (There are a few exceptions involving continued discussions). If you think you are still waiting for a follow-up, please call the Recreation Residence Team as soon as possible. At this point, the Forest Service has made the shift to focusing on final inspections and actual preparation of 745 new permits. Here's where we stand....

Final Inspections – We completed some final inspections last fall and restarted this spring. We have a significant work load ahead to complete the remainder of inspections in the upcoming summer months. There will be several teams of two completing the final inspections throughout the summer. The inspection is simply a check off of whether you completed your required corrective actions or not. Inspections are completed based on logistics and travel efficiencies so we cannot predict when any individual lot will be inspected nor can we facilitate setting up meetings for final inspections.

As soon as snow access allowed we began inspecting cabins that had notified us that they had completed all required corrections or that had expired due dates. Unfortunately, the results thus far have been very disappointing.

Approximately 224 final inspections have been completed.
Only 65 are in compliance and ready for new term permits.

As you can see, this is not encouraging. Some examples of results include:

- one or two required items still needing correction
- long lists of required items not completed, including both minor and major actions
- driveway drawings have not been received or approved
- rock borders around trees, flower beds, pathways, lot perimeters, etc., not removed
- driveway/parking area on ground not as depicted on "Approved" driveway drawing
- nothing has been done or even started
- required removals of unauthorized structures/improvements not completed

We are very concerned about the number of inspections that have been completed on lots where the deadline has passed and/or we have been notified that you were ready for inspection and have found numerous items still left to be done or some cases, nothing has been done at all. If you have attempted to reach us regarding a specific compliance issue and we have not yet gotten back to you, please complete all other items.

We cannot over emphasize how serious and important it is that you meet your compliance requirements. You **WILL NOT** receive a new 20 year permit if you don't. We are clearly down to the final months and the Forest Service does not have the capacity to deal with a lot of last minute calls, letters, re-inspections or re-negotiations. We are running out of time folks!!

We remain committed to our goal of issuing you all new term permits, but we need your help and cooperation to achieve that goal. Once the final inspection is completed by the Recreation Residence Team you will receive a letter notifying you of the results. Please, please finish up your compliance requirements as soon as possible. The longer these drag out, the less likely that we will be able to complete all of the compliance approvals and issue all of the new 20 year permits in time. The consequence would be that many of you would only receive 1 year temporary permits.

Environmental Analysis (NEPA compliance): We will complete the environmental analysis to re-authorize new 20 year term permits this summer.

New Permit Preparation: During the past several months we have had a team of 4 working on preparing draft permits in the required database. This involves researching the records and correspondence to make sure all improvements and conditional improvements are identified on the new permits. After final inspections have been completed and all compliance has been verified we will finalize the drafts. We anticipate beginning to send out new term permits for your signature(s) in October 2008. New permits will be effective January 1, 2009.

What happens if the FS finds more compliance issues when they do the final inspections?

The required corrections as documented in your original inspection results letter (and follow-up amendment letter(s) if applicable) will serve as the benchmark for compliance in issuing a new permit to you.

- If during the final inspection, the FS identifies additional needs that were present at the time of the original inspection, and that the FS failed to address, we will document these needs and work with you to correct them as part of routine and ongoing compliance administration under your new permit.
- If the team identifies that a permit holder has initiated unauthorized construction activities or other non-compliant changes since the original inspection then the permit holder will be required to make the necessary corrections before a new 20 year term permit can be issued.