Forest Service **Bridger-Teton National Forest** 

340 N. Cache PO Box 1888 Jackson, WY 83001-1888

File Code: 1950-1/2720-2 Date: January 2, 2008

## Dear Interested Citizen:

The Bridger-Teton National Forest is proposing to reauthorize use and occupancy of NFS land for Recreation Residence permittees to operate and maintain summer homes and associated, approved facilities for the term of twenty years. The Forest Service authorizations will be limited to maintaining existing authorized improvements and associated use of NFS land. The current authorizations expire on December, 31, 2008 and the new authorizations will become effective on January 1, 2009. Use and occupancy will occur on portions of the Big Piney, Greys River, Jackson, Buffalo and Pinedale Ranger districts, Bridger-Teton National Forest, at the following locations: Middle Piney, Cottonwood Lake, Black Canyon, Jack Pine, Turpin Meadows, Fremont Lake, Sylvan Bay, Willow Lake, and Temple Creek summer home areas. This encompasses all of the Recreation Residences on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, each an average size of approximately one acre consisting of approximately 136 total acres.

The proposed action is to issue 136 special use authorizations, each for a term of 20 years. This action has been determined to fall within a category of actions that may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Analysis (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, section 31.2, paragraph 15 allows: "Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are no changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization."

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an opportunity to provide comment, identifying concerns, issues or recommendations on the proposed action. For your comments to be most useful, please submit them during the comment period which runs from January 2, 2008 to February 4, 2008. Comments should provide specific opinions and rationale to assist the Forest Service in shaping the environmental analysis.

You may provide comment in written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, or electronic form. The comment period runs until close of business (4:30 pm) of February 4, 2008. Please direct comments to:

Forest Supervisor Bridger-Teton National Forest P.O. Box 1888 Jackson, WY 83001 Telephone: (307)739-5597

FAX: (307)739-5010

Email: comments-intermtn-bridger-teton@fs.fed.us





The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc). Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone or in person; or at an official agency function (e.g., public meeting) designated to elicit public comment.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be grated in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 10 days.

If you have questions regarding this project, please contact Kristi VonKrosigk at (307)739-5597. This scoping document and map are also available online at <a href="www.fs.fed.us/btnf/projects/">www.fs.fed.us/btnf/projects/</a>.

Sincerely,

CAROLE 'KNIFFY' HAMILTON

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Forest Supervisor

enclosure

cc: Big Piney Ranger District
Greys River Ranger District
Jackson Ranger District
Buffalo Ranger District
Pinedale Ranger District

