Idaho Panhandle National Forests

MEMO

JULY 16, 2015

Dear Permit Holder:

Summer season hit early this year and is in full swing. Before we get too far along in the season, I'd like to remind you of a few items and pass along some information.

First, I'd like to thank everyone for your patience during bill processing this year. It was a fairly complicated process to calculate the individual scenarios and Terri Woodland (who processes the bills) and I very much appreciate your cooperation and patience.

Fire Restrictions: Stage II fire restrictions started on July 14. I've included a copy of these regulations which everyone using the National Forest must abide by in order to protect our resources. Please read and abide by these restrictions.

Recreation Residence Standards & Guidelines: We have made some minor updates to the Guidelines to be in compliance with new direction. I've enclosed a summary of these changes. You may continue using the July 2009 copy with this summary. If you wish to have a copy of the new version (October 2014), you will need to download and print a copy from our website at: www.fs.usda.gov/ipnf, then on the left side, "Passes & Permits", "Other Permits" and then "Recreation Residences".

Summer is always a good time to review your permit, standards & guidelines, and take a look at the website link for additional information.

Garbage Transfer Sites: Please remember, you may only take your garbage to the approved Bonner County transfer stations. The Bonner County sites are the ones you pay for through your personal property taxes on your cabin. The two in the Priest Lake area at Dickensheet, located east of the Dickensheet junction on the way to Coolin, and the 11 Mile located adjacent to Highway 57. You may not use the dumpsters at the campgrounds or the Kalispell boat launch to dispose of your garbage.

Cabin Fee Act (CFA): Now that CFA has passed, this will bring stability to the fee structure for 2016 and beyond. The fee tier determination process will be done at the Washington Office level. I've included some information on how the fee tiers will be determined. Probably the best source of information on CFA is posted on the National Forest Homeowners website at: www.nationalforesthomeowners.org. I encourage you to look at the information here to see how CFA was developed and will be implemented.

You may want to attend the annual Permittees Association meeting on Saturday, August 1st, 10:00 a.m. at the Priest Lake Community Church in Kalispell Bay. Ron Yandt from the Permittees Association will be giving a presentation on the Cabin Fee Act which includes the fee tier development process.

Proposals for Construction and Modifications: We have an "open season (September 15 – December 31) each year for accepting proposals for new projects for repairs, changes and modifications to your cabin and permitted lot. Unless you have an emergency situation, you are expected to apply under the open season.

Permit Contact: I need to work directly with the permit holder, not a family member. This is coming up more as some of the permit holders are getting older, and other family members want to take more of a role in the responsibilities of taking care of the cabin and lot. Please remember, I can only authorize approvals for projects submitted by the permit holder, or someone they designate in writing as their representative (adult child, contractor).

Information & Phone Numbers: I am your contact for any questions or concerns regarding your permit, however, I've included an information sheet that lists some additional general information and phone numbers you may find useful.

Please have a safe and enjoyable summer. If you have any questions, please contact me at: (208) 443-6822, or by email at: dabutler@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

DEBBIE BUTLER
Recreation Special Uses Permit Administrator

Enclosures:

- Stage II Fire Restrictions
- Summary of changes, Recreation Residence Standards & Guidelines
- CFA Information Sheet
- Information and Phone Numbers

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

As of: July 14, 2015 - North Idaho, STAGE 2 RESTRICTIONS prohibit the following:

FIRES OR CHARCOAL

Prohibited: Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire.
Exceptions: Persons using a fire or stove fire fueled solely by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels. Such devises, including propane campfires, may be used only in an area clear of flammable material.

SMOKING

Prohibited: Smoking outside an enclosed vehicle or building. **Exceptions:** You can smoke while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL

Prohibited: Operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails.

CHAINSAWS/ OTHER EQUIPMENT

Prohibited: The following acts are prohibited from 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. - Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine; Blasting, welding, or other activities that generate flame or flammable material; Using an explosive.

Remember – Fireworks are illegal on public lands.

idahofireinfo.blogspot.com

For more information contact your local fire agency

Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Area

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Stage 2 Fire Restrictions will be implemented in the Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Area/Fire Restrictions Area in all of the six Idaho Panhandle counties (Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, and Latah).

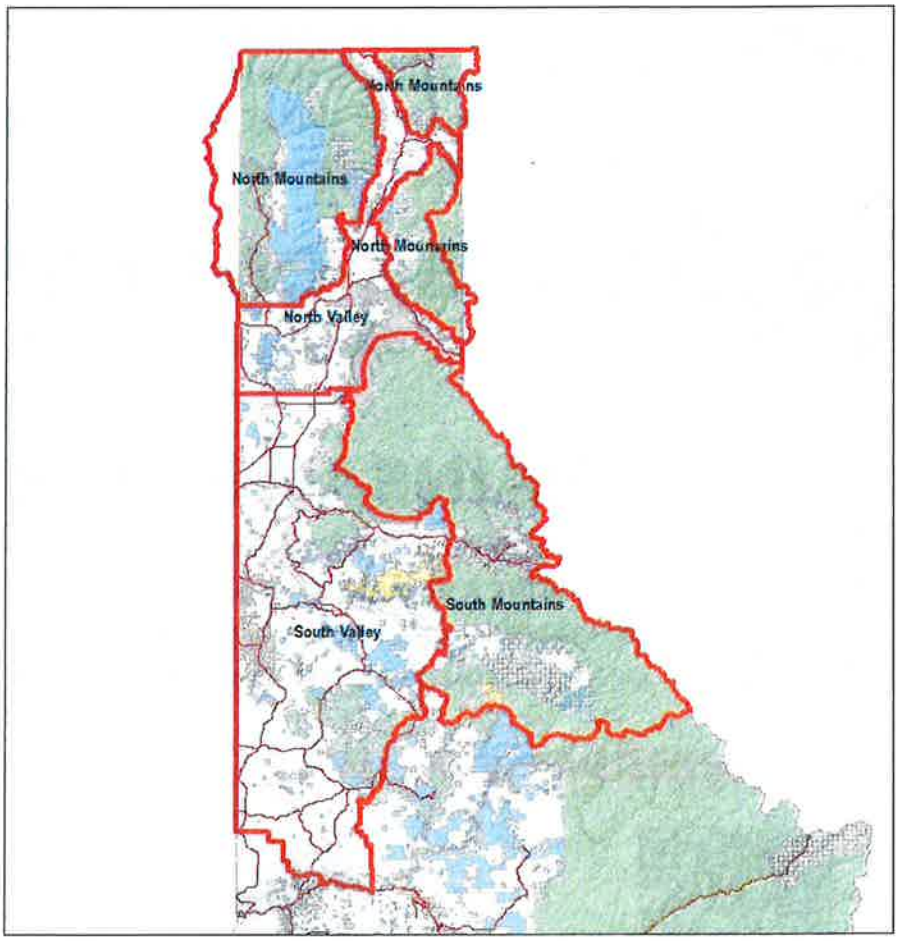
STAGE II Restrictions - The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

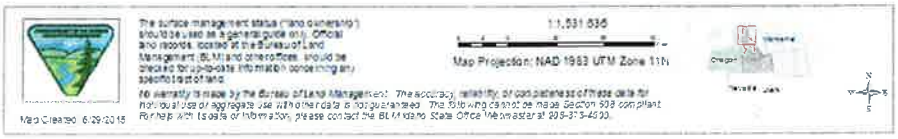
1. **Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire.**
2. **Smoking**, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a designated recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
3. **Operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails** in accordance with existing travel management plans.
4. **The following acts are prohibited from 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.** A patrol is required for one hour following cessation of all work as described in **a**, **b** and **c** below.
   a. Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine for felling, bucking, skidding, processing, road building and woodcutting during industrial operations or fire wood gathering.
   b. Blasting, welding, or other activities that generate flame or flammable material.
   c. Using an explosive.

Exceptions

1. Persons with a written permit that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
2. **Persons using a fire or stove fire fueled solely by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels.** Such devises, including propane campfires, may be used only in an area cleared of flammable material.
3. **Persons using a generator with an approved spark arrester** on areas that are cleared of all flammable materials within three feet of the generator.
4. Log loading and hauling only – from landings and existing roads and only on non-federal lands.
5. Private landowners using charcoal (disposed of properly) or propane barbecues on their own lands.
6. Crop lands.
7. Emergency repair of public utilities and railroads as per attached conditions in Stage II Exemptions for Public Utilities and Railroads, Appendix 10.
8. Any federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force, in the performance of an official duty.
9. Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
10. All land within a city boundary.

Northern Idaho
Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Area





Recreation Residence Standards & Guidelines
Summary of changes between 2009 Version & 2014 Version

- Page 6: Added 2nd & 3rd paragraph to describe rationale for the update.

- Page 8: Under Procedures for Construction, Replacements, Additions, Modifications and New Improvements; Number 2: change to: ***"Requests must be made during the annual "Open Season" for new proposals, September 15-December 31 each year. Proposals to consider emergency situations will be accepted any time of year.*** (Open Season was implemented in 2011).

- Page 11: Number 2; Construction Section – more added emphasis on the ***historic values*** considerations.

- Page 17: Number 5; Seasonal Burning Permits – added that these are now obtained on-line at: www.burnpermits.idaho.gov.

- Page 22: Number 6: Change to recommended verbiage from Idaho Department of Lands on the use of open foam flotation billets not being allowed.

- Page 25: Number 4; who can be issued a recreation residence permit – change to "A recreation residence permit can only be issued to a single person, married couple, ***legal domestic partnership***, or a living family trust".

- Page 26: Change the ***Sandpoint Ranger District contact information*** (address, phone) since they have moved.

- Page 26: Change to the new Idaho Panhandle National Forests website: www.fs.usda.gov/ipnf

- Page 36: Appendix C: Include the newly signed ***Programmatic Agreement between the Idaho Panhandle National Forests & the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.***

Cabin Fee Act – Fee Tier Determination

❖ <u>When will the "fee tiers" be known and who is responsible for making those assignments? Will the tiers assignments be adjusted in the future?</u>

Fee tiers will be assigned nationally. There are approximately 14,000 recreation residences across the country, and assignments will be **made by the Forest Service Washington Office (WO) Chief Appraiser** in order to best assign the respective tiers to comply with the CFA. Recreation residence lots will be assigned to a respective fee tier by considering the most current approved appraised value that was completed/approved according to the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act of 2000 (CUFFA). From there, as required by the CFA, a one-time adjustment to the base fee value will be made by the Chief Appraiser using the 4th Quarter of 2012 National Association of Homebuilders/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index prior to assignment to a tier. Nationally, this process will reflect any change in value occurring after the date of the most recent appraisal and that data will be used to assign the fee tier.

Once the WO informs the Regions of the tier assignments, it will be the field's responsibility to communicate the tier assignment and forthcoming annual fee with the cabin owners.

Once tiers are assigned, those assignments, including typical lot grouping, will <u>not</u> be revisited or changed. For a **temporary event**, such as a major fire or landslide occur which significantly restrict access to a cabin and a fee reduction is requested, a pro-rated discount to the annual fee may be applied with consultation of the regional appraiser (not a change to the tier).

❖ <u>When fee tiers are assigned, some annual fees will go up and some down. For those cabin owners who disagree with their "tier" assignment, is that an appealable decision?</u>

No. The determination of which tier each cabin will be assigned to will be done according to a formula set out in section (f)(1) of the CFA, and therefore, is not appealable. The Forest Service is implementing law through a mathematical process; **there is no discretion or decision being made**.

There should be a national template drafted for the field to use to communicate the fee assignments to cabin owners. Typical lot assignments should not be revisited, unless a significant, long-term change has occurred, because the agency and cabin owners recently went through that process and there is not an appraisal being done at this time. (FSH 2709.11, 33.41)

INFORMATION & PHONE NUMBERS - 2015

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, fax number (208) 443-6845. If you need to report a forest fire or other emergency, please call **911**.

Website: www.fs.usda.gov/ipnf.

Summer Home link: www.fs.usda.gov/ipnf. On the left side of page, "Passes and Permits", then "Other Permits".

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

Firearms & Other Implements that could cause injury (bow & arrows, paint ball guns): Prohibited within 150 yards of the recreation residence, campgrounds, etc. [CFR Title 36, Part 261.10].

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 limited recycling. For information on either site call (208) 443-3007.

West Lakeshore Road: Contact the Bonner County Road and Bridge Department at (208) 255-5681 with questions regarding the West Lakeshore Road or Reeder Bay Road.

Brush/Slash Disposal: Burning permits are required for slash disposal and are available on-line at: http://www.burnpermits.idaho.gov. For more information, contact the Idaho Department of Lands office in Cavanaugh Bay: (208) 443-2516.

- Small beach campfires in an enclosed fire pan (approximately 2' X 3' maximum size) are allowed using wood materials only – burning garbage is prohibited.

Dogs: You need to control or contain your pets in a manner that keeps the public and pet safe. If walking within the campgrounds, leash laws do apply. Please be respectful of those who do not have or like pets. Please pick up after your pets.

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, you can 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, volleyball nets, etc., as much as possible.

Helpful Names & Phone Numbers:

- Recreation Special Uses Permit Administrator (Recreation Residences, Campground Concessionaire, Outfitter & Guides, Recreation Events, Resorts) – Debbie Butler: 443-6822

- Recreation Manager (Kalispell Boat Launch, Island & Upper Lake Camping, Day Use Areas, Trails, Wilderness) - Dan Gilfillan: 443-6839

- Idaho Department of Fish & Game – (208) 769-1414 or Rob Soumas: 448-2302

- Idaho Department of Lands – 443-2516