



## Information for Recreation Residences Impacted by the Creek Fire

The Sierra National Forest understands this is a very difficult time for many of you who may have lost your recreation residence in the Creek Fire. We understand that it's not just a cabin in the forest, but a place filled with memories of family and friends that may go back generations. The Sierra National Forest grieves with you in this loss and will be doing our best to provide as much information as possible to help guide you through the process that lies ahead.

The Creek Fire has destroyed some recreation residences making them unusable for the primary purpose authorized. This has raised questions including: what happens next, can we rebuild, can we transfer/sell our permit if our cabin burned, when can we access the our cabin, does the permit get extended, what if I don't want to rebuild and the list goes on. This document serves to start answering some of those questions.

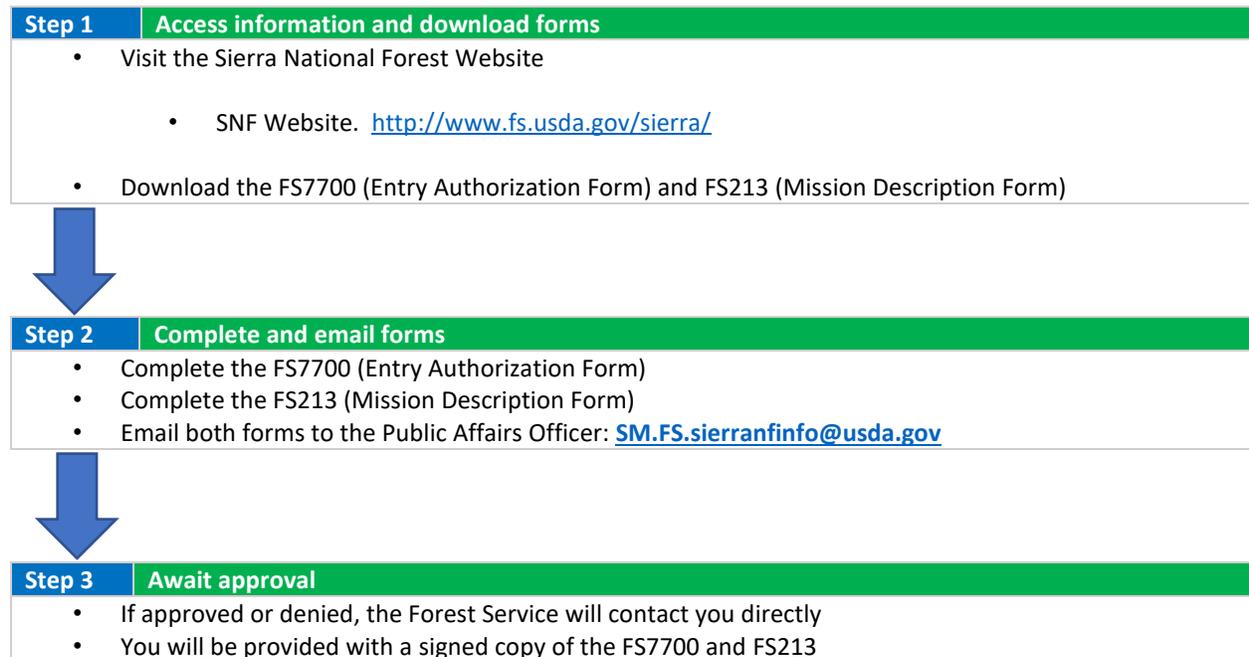
### **SAFETY and CABIN ACCESS**

Of course, your safety and the safety of fire personnel is our first priority and so there are a number of things identified below that need to occur prior to allowing access to your cabin within the fire area.

Prior to approval of access, the Forest Service would perform a Safety Analysis including:

- Consultation with the Incident Management Team to determine when it is safe to enter the affected area including local fire behavior, road conditions, hazard trees etc.
- Presence of hazardous materials analysis (if applicable)
- Presence of geologic hazards (if applicable)
- Coordinate with local Sheriff's Office to enter permit area. Determine if desired location is in an evacuation order area
- Line Officer gives authorization to permit holder via signed FS7700

The following are the steps a Special Use Permit holder should take to gain access to their permitted area:





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### **PATH FORWARD**

Should you have the unfortunate circumstance that your cabin has been destroyed, there are two options available to you as the permit holder.

1. You may rebuild under the conditions set forth by Forest Service policy and the safety determination.

The Authorized Officer must determine whether or not to accept a proposal to rebuild on the site. This determination is a big picture assessment to asking; is the site generally safe? Are there unstable slopes or soils? Are there too many hazard trees? Is it within a floodplain?

2. You may abandon your permit and the lot. However, you are responsible for returning the site to the natural state, excluding vegetation, by cleaning up and removing of all facilities on the lot including water and septic lines.

*\*\*Important to note: Only the holder has the privilege of rebuilding and may not sell the cabin remains or foundation, etc. to a new person to rebuild and become a new holder.*

### **RE-BUILDING PROCESS OVERVIEW:**

- 1) The permit holder will be notified by letter with the determination that the holder can rebuild (in place or on an in lieu lot if available) based on the safety determination, flood plain analysis, and Forest Management Plan.
- 2) A reasonable amount of time will be offered to the permit holder to notify the authorized officer of their intent to rebuild in writing and then to submit plans to rebuild (1 year). The one year timeframe would start once you receive a letter from the Sierra National Forest. However, due to the extraordinary circumstances of the Creek Fire, the permit holder may request more than one year.
- 3) Upon approval of plans, a reasonable amount of time will be allowed for the completion of rebuilding. (2 years). As above, due to the extraordinary circumstances of the Creek Fire, the permit holder may request more time.
- 4) A Flood Plain Analysis we need to be conducted prior to rebuilding.
- 5) The permits will be put into a “non-use” status for billing and occupancy purposes during planning and construction phases.
  - a. Forest Service policy prohibits use the area for the use authorized during the non-use period; however, the holder must maintain the premises and improvements in a satisfactory condition (FSH 2709.11 31.23).
    - i. As an example, since they are in non-use status and are not paying fees it would be inappropriate for them to park an R.V etc. on the site and continue to use it. The presence of nominal or ancillary uses (e.g. wells, outbuilding, etc.) does not preclude the application of non-use (FSH 2709.11, section 31.23) or require the minimum fee.
- 6) A refund for a prorated portion of the annual fee, reflecting the remainder of the current billing period from the date of the occurrence of the act or event will be issued (FSH 2709.11, section 33.3).
- 7) There is no permit extension due to rebuilding.