



## Recreation Residence New Permit Issuance Stanislaus National Forest



### June 2007 Update

**Background and Overview:** As you are aware, all cabin permits will expire on 12/31/2008. The Forest began the process of preparation to issue new 20 year term permits in 2003. The project has been consolidated into one effort covering all 3 districts. Karen Caldwell, Summit District Ranger, is assigned as the lead officer for the project. Julie Martin, Summit Public Services Program Area Leader, is assigned as the overall Project Team Leader and the Interdisciplinary Team Leader for the environmental analysis portion. Sue Morgan, retired Special Use Permit Administrator, is on contract to assisting with this effort. Vicki Whitman is assigned full time providing technical support assistance.

For the past 5 months, Karen, Julie and Vickie were sequestered from their regular duties to complete the issuance of the compliance letters. Julie and Karen will be returning to their regular positions on the Summit Ranger District at the end of June. They will still be working hard on this project, but must also juggle other program and activity needs and responsibilities throughout the summer. Vickie will remain assigned full time. We also have volunteers who have devoted their personal time to help and support this effort. Special thanks go to:

Judy Duncan—Brightman Tract  
Pattie Charles—Brightman Tract  
Mary Erickson—Brightman Tract  
Dave Patterson—Pinecrest Movie Concession Permit  
Holder

Throughout the summer, we are anticipating that others who have expressed interest in volunteering may also be lending their time and assistance for this project.

**Process Update:** The following is a status update on the two remaining elements that must be completed prior to issuing new permits:

1. **Special Use Permit Compliance:** I am happy to report that our records indicate that all 745 cabin permit holders have now received their inspection results letter (compliance letter). Although much remains to be done, this is a big milestone. If you have **not** received a letter, or if you may have misplaced your letter, please contact us at the phone number below immediately.

Beginning June 4, we began making follow-up contacts. We are beginning with the oldest calls/letters first and will be working forward. Please be patient. We know that most of you want to complete your work this summer and we are working hard to get back with you as quickly as possible. Some follow-up needs can be handled by phone, some by letter, and some may require setting up meetings on site. Please be patient, there are a limited number of us assigned to this effort.

We will also be processing any approval needs for compliance related actions. You will receive written approvals for the plans, paint colors or other items you have submitted for approval.

Lastly, we will begin final inspections this summer. The bulk of this work will most likely occur next summer (2008) however. We will not be setting up meetings for final inspections since we simply do not have the capacity to logistically accommodate 745 field meetings. Once the final inspection is completed by the Recreation Residence Team you will receive a letter notifying you of the results....hopefully documenting that you are in full compliance with the terms and conditions of your current permit. Celebration time!!

2. Environmental Analysis: This portion of the process provides an environmental analysis and final decision to authorize or not authorize new term permits. An environmental analysis is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and must be completed prior to issuing any new 20 year term permits.

Resource specialists (botany, archaeology, wildlife, soils/hydrology, road engineer) have completed field surveys of the tracts. Most environmental resource concerns are being addressed through the compliance process since many of the standards are designed to mitigate negative environmental affects on natural resources. (Examples include: driveways/parking, non-native plants, bird feeders/wildlife feeding stations, attachments to trees, fire pits/fire rings, wastewater systems, etc.)

Proposed actions by tract, addressing any remaining environmental issues, will be distributed for review and comment to all permit holders this summer. The most common resource issue is related to unauthorized excessive roads and driveways which have evolved over time. We plan to schedule on site tract meetings as necessary to discuss options with affected permit holders. This issue does not exist in all tracts.

The environmental analysis and final decisions are expected to be completed next winter.

**Contact Information:** If you have questions or require follow-up contacts please send us your request in writing or you may contact us at the number(s) below:

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|---|--------------------|
| Recreation Residence Team—New Permit Issuance   | 209.965.3947       |
| Compliance/Environmental Analysis   | 209.965.3947       |
| All other Special Uses: Transfers/Sales/Trusts, non-compliance related approvals/requests, CUFFA<br><i>Reminder: New project proposals/approvals that are not related to new permit issuance are not being accepted. Backlogged approval requests that are not compliance related are on hold. Immediate (critical) health and safety, paint color, roof replacements and compliance required approvals are being accepted and processed.</i> | 209.965.3434 x5337 |

The Recreation Residence Team cannot accommodate walk-ins, but will get back with you as soon as possible. The front desk information staff will be happy to take your contact information and pass it along to us. Please keep in mind they are not currently,

nor have they been, directly involved in the process and are unable to otherwise respond to your needs. Please be considerate and respectful of these individuals.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support. I will continue to keep you updated as we progress.

KAREN JO CALDWELL

District Ranger

Recreation Residence Permit Reauthorization Project Leader