



File Code: 2700/1950

Date: June 9, 2014

Dear Friends:

Special use authorizations (permits) issued to Barton-Lexa Water Association (Permit STF103001) and to the Arkansas Army National Guard (Permit STF104003) respectively have expired. I am proposing to reissue these permits. Due to the similar nature of these proposals they are being grouped for scoping purposes, but they are separate actions.

- Barton-Lexa Water Association's previous permit authorized the operation and maintenance of a water line to the Storm Creek Lake Recreation Area within an underground utility corridor 10 feet wide and 3 miles long. The use area includes approximately 3.64 acres within T1S, R5E, Sections 18, 19 and 30 in Phillips County. If reissue is approved the new permit's term will be 20 years.
- The Arkansas Army National Guard's previous permit authorized use of all National Forest System acres within the proclamation boundary of the St. Francis National Forest except developed recreation areas and campgrounds for the purpose of conducting training exercises. If reissue is approved, the new permit's term will be 20 years.

Both permit holders have operated in full compliance with the terms and conditions of previous permits. No changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of the authorized uses are proposed. A map showing the vicinity of the St. Francis National Forest is attached.

I have made a preliminary determination that 1) these permit renewals fall within the following category of actions listed in regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 220.6 that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, and 2) there are no extraordinary circumstances that would preclude use of this category. The only alternative to the actions currently being considered is a No Action Alternative in which one or both will not be reissued.

FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30, § 32.2 (15): "Issue 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." [36 CFR 220.6(e)(15)]



This category of actions requires documentation of a decision in a Decision Memo. The only alternative to the actions currently being considered is a No Action Alternative in which permit reissue will not be approved.

My final decision for each proposal will be made independently of the other and will not be subject to administrative review; however, before rendering it, I want to provide those interested in or affected by either of these proposals an opportunity to make their concerns known or provide other comment that I should consider.

All comments received, including those submitted anonymously, will be considered, but only those who provide contact information will be notified of my decision. Please note that all comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for these permit modification requests and will be available for public inspection.

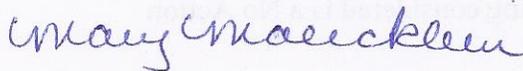
How to comment

Comments need to be within the scope of and have a direct relationship to the Proposed Action and include supporting reasons for me to consider. Please send written comments to me, Deputy District Ranger Mary Maercklein by June 20, 2014 at the St. Francis Ranger District, 2955 Highway 44, Marianna, AR 72360. Written comments may also be submitted via facsimile (870-295-3382) or may be hand-delivered at our office between 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-stfrancis@fs.fed.us. Please state "Permit Reissues" in the subject line when providing electronic comments.

If you have questions

If you have questions relating to this proposal or want more information about it, please contact me at (870) 295-5278.

Sincerely,



MARY MAERCKLEIN
St. Francis Deputy District Ranger

St. Francis National Forest

Special Use Permits
Bear Creek

-  Bear Creek Special Use Area
-  Roads
-  Private
-  Forest Service
-  Mississippi River State Park

