



DECISION MEMO
Recreation Residence Permit Amendments for Use Areas 10B and 12
Region 8, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
St. Francis Ranger District, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests
Bear Creek Lake Recreation Residence Tract, Lee County, AR
PALS # 44735

Background

The St. Francis National Forest has forty-eight recreation residences on the Bear Creek Lake Recreation Residence tract under land use authorizations (permits). No individual use area exceeds five contiguous acres.

Only authorized improvements (privately owned structures and items associated with the use) that are listed on the permit face or those authorized in writing by the Forest Service may be present on the use area. Two individuals holding recreation residence permits for use areas on the Bear Creek Lake Recreation Residence tract have submitted requests to either change or add improvements on their use areas as shown below. A permit amendment approved in writing by the Forest Supervisor must be executed before modifying any existing authorized structure or adding a new structure to the permitted use area. These requests are consistent with the requirements of the St. Francis National Forest Recreation Residence Guidelines.

Use Area	Permit #	Amendment:
BCL 10B	STF0124	Change size of authorized dock to 400 sq feet.
BCL 12	STF0038	Add a 96 sq foot wooden storage shed

Decision

I have decided to recommend approval of the respective permit amendments to the Forest Supervisor.

Before reaching my decision, I considered the following resource conditions listed in FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30 Section 31.2 and determined there are no associated extraordinary circumstances that would have a significant effect on the human environment or result in a significant individual or cumulative environmental effect if the modifications are authorized.

- *Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat or Forest Service sensitive species;*
- *Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds;*

- *Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas or national recreation areas;*
- *Inventoried Roadless Areas;*
- *Research Natural Areas;*
- *Native American religious or cultural sites, and*
- *Other archaeological sites, historic properties and/or areas*

I find these actions fall within the following category of actions listed in Chapter 30, Section 32.2 of FSH 1909.15; it is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement:

FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30, Section 32.2 (3): *“Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.”* 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3)

Public Involvement

The proposed modifications were posted on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests website’s projects page for a period of two weeks with a request for comments during that timeframe. None were received.

Findings Required by Other Laws

Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2347.1 provides the general policy for recreation residence use. Amendment of recreation residence permits does not violate or threaten to violate any federal, state or local laws or regulations.

Appeal Opportunities

This decision is not subject to appeal.

Implementation

Implementation of the changes on each use area may begin when permit amendments are signed by the Forest Supervisor.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision contact me, Deputy District Ranger Mary Maercklein at (870) 295-5278 extension 5244, mmaercklein@fs.fed.us .

/s/ Mary Maercklein

Mary Maercklein
Deputy District Ranger
Sylamore-St. Francis Ranger District

August 1, 2014

Date

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