
File Code: 2720
Date: April 10, 2015

Mt. Hood Special Uses Program Update

You are receiving this letter because you hold a special use permit on the Mt. Hood National Forest, or you have applied for a special use permit in the past. We want to update you on the progress we made in the Special Uses program in 2014, planning and programmatic requirements for 2015, and upcoming open house opportunities.

2014 Open Season

In 2014, the forest implemented an open season for special use proposals for resorts, ski areas, organization camps and most non-recreation uses such as utility corridors and communication sites. The forest received 33 special use proposals during the open season and was able to screen these proposals in a more efficient manner. The forest was also able to involve the interdisciplinary resource teams in the screening process to identify any issues before moving forward.

2015 Open Season

The 2015 open season for resorts, ski areas, organization camps and non-recreation uses will be June 1 through June 30. Tools to assist you in completing your 2015 proposal can be found on our website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mthood/passes-permits/event-commercial/?cid=STELPRDB5413399>. There is a frequently asked question page that is particularly helpful to people unfamiliar with the process. If you feel that you would benefit from a pre-application meeting, please contact us.

The special uses open season is intended to facilitate program of work planning on the forest. In order to facilitate an appropriate selection of proposals, proponents must:

- (1) State any factors related to the urgency of the project, if applicable
- (2) Prioritize your proposals if more than one proposal is being submitted
- (3) State proposed dates and time of year for implementation
- (4) Recognize that if the forest is already working on another project for your or your company/agency, acceptance and analysis of additional proposals may be deferred.

Accepted proposals will be incorporated into the program of work for Mt. Hood National Forest staff based on overall forest priorities and ongoing projects. After open season, you will receive a letter of acceptance or denial of your proposal. Accepted proposals will be subject to cost recovery under regulation 36 CFR 251.58. Forest staff will conduct an environmental review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and National Forest Management Act, and other applicable laws and policies. Due to fluid timelines inherent in public land management, the forest must exercise discretion to begin or postpone work at any time due to shifting priorities. **Depending on the complexity of the environmental analysis, accepted proposals could take up to 18 months before implementation could occur.**



Table A, below, outlines the open seasons and timelines for specific uses on the forest. Open Season applies to proposals for new uses and for modifications to existing permits which require amendments or ground-disturbing activities other than general maintenance.

Table A: 2015 Open season or Acceptance Periods

Type of Use	2015 Open Season
Permits/Projects: Non-recreation special uses, and ski areas, resorts and organizational camps	June 1 – June 30, 2015
Recreation residence	August 15 –November 15
Outfitter guides	January 1 – March 1*
Recreation events	September 1 – November 1*
Type of Use	Minimum Processing Time
Filming	Minimum 14 days prior to filming
Non-commercial group use	Minimum 3 days prior to event

**Only proposals for modifications to existing permits will be considered for recreation events and outfitter/guide permits*

Staffing Update and Open House

In July, the forest welcomed its new winter sports permit administrator, Shawnee Hinman.

Special uses staff	Contact information	Special uses & lands area of responsibility
MaryEllen Fitzgerald	mfitzgerald@fs.fed.us 503-668-1429	Communication sites, lands permits that cross multiple Ranger Districts, Olallie Resort, filming, easements and special uses program coordination
Shawnee Hinman	sfhinman@fs.fed.us 541-352-1245	Winter resorts (ski areas), lands permits solely on Hood River or Barlow Ranger Districts, filming and the ski area component of Timberline Lodge resort permit.
Fran Lanagan	flanagan@fs.fed.us 503-622-2031	Recreational residences
Leanne Veldhuis	lveldhuis@fs.fed.us 503-622-2030	Lands permits solely on the Clackamas River and Zigzag Ranger Districts, Timberline Lodge resort permit, recreational residences and filming
Joy Woodcock	gwoodcock@fs.fed.us 503-668-1640	Organizational camps, recreation events and outfitter guides

Mt. Hood Special Uses staff will be hosting two **open houses** on Wednesday, May 27 at the Hood River Ranger District and Thursday, May 28 at the Zigzag Ranger District, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Please stop by for a Q&A session and to meet your permit administrator.

Our goal is to serve you better and be more responsive and efficient in how we manage the Mt. Hood special uses program. For questions regarding the 2015 Open Season, you may contact MaryEllen Fitzgerald, special uses program lead, at (503) 668-1429 or mfitzgerald@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ VL Peterson (for)

SHARON WALLACE
Acting Forest Supervisor

cc: Leanne Veldhuis, MaryEllen Fitzgerald, Shawnee Hinman

