United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
St. Francis National Forest
2955 Highway 44
Marianna, AR 72360
870-295-5278
FAX 870-295-3382

File Code: 1950
Date: May 11, 2015

Dear Friends:

The individual holding a recreation residence permit for lot 5B (Permit Number STF0065) on the St. Francis National Forest's Bear Creek Lake (BCL) recreation residence tract has submitted a request to install a 40-foot wooden walkway with steps to the authorized boat dock on the permitted use area. The walkway would be 42 inches wide with wooden handrails. Before this change can be authorized, the permit must be amended. A map showing the location of lot 5B is attached.

The request is consistent with the St. Francis National Forest Recreation Residence Guidelines (Guidelines, page 18). I am proposing this request be approved and Permit Number STF0065 be amended to show the walkway as an authorized improvement.

I have made a preliminary determination that 1) the proposed activity falls 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 the use of this category.

> FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30, § 32.2 (3) (vi): "*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)]

The only alternative to the action currently being considered is a No Action Alternative in which the request will be denied. My decision will not be subject to administrative review, but I want to provide those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known. I will consider all comments received, including those submitted anonymously. My decision on this matter will be documented in a Decision Memo and posted on this web page.

How to comment

Please note that all comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be available for public inspection. 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 at the address shown in the letter head by May 22, 2015. Written comments may also be submitted via facsimile @ (870) 295-5278 or may be hand-delivered to our office between 8:00 am and 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 (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-stfrancis@fs.fed.us. Please state "*BCL 5B Permit Amendment*" in the subject line when providing electronic comments.

If you have questions

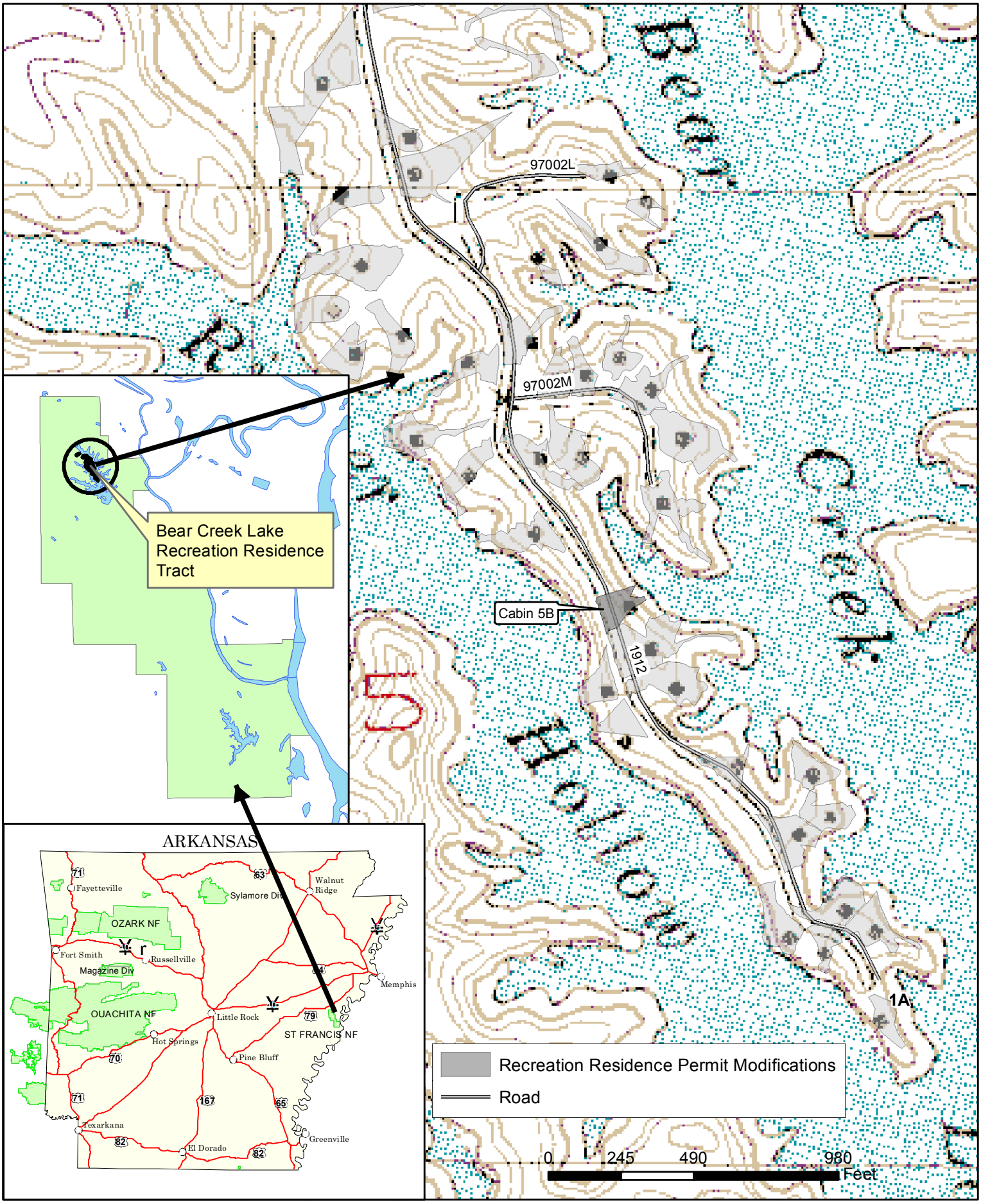
If you have any questions related to this proposal or want more information about it, please contact me at (870) 295-5278 or Natural Resources Assistant J. Swafford at (870) 269-3228.

Sincerely,

/s/ ***Mary Maercklein***

MARY MAERCKLEIN
Deputy District Ranger, Sylamore-St. Francis Ranger District

jlf
attachment (1 map)

St. Francis National Forest

Recreation Residence Permit Modifications
T1N-R4E Section 5
Lot 5B