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File Code: 2700 **Date:** August 2, 2013

Subject: Cleveland National Forest Special Use Permit Program

Greetings,

Effective immediately, and for the remainder of Calendar Year 2013, the Cleveland National Forest (CNF) will not be accepting new special use permit proposals, or modifications to existing special use permits. The CNF intends to re-initiate the acceptance of new special use permit proposals and modifications to existing special use permits beginning January 1, 2014.

This deferment applies to new proposals for non-recreation special uses and to new commercial recreation special use events. The CNF will continue to accept proposals for projects which are deemed necessary to address an imminent risk to public health and safety, as well as filming proposals.

Existing special use applications that are currently on our FY13 Program of Work will continue to be reviewed and prioritized by CNF special uses staff. We intend to work as quickly as possible to process these existing applications, however, it is also possible that even these existing applications could be delayed.

The reason for this strategic pause in accepting new special use proposals or modifications to existing special uses permits for the remainder of the calendar year is due to a CNF workforce planning analysis that resulted in a re-organization of the CNF special uses program. The re-organization of the CNF special uses program will require four to six months to implement.

During the remainder of 2013, the CNF will work on the backlog of existing and expired permits and applications, update special use permit systems and processes, and re-design the CNF website to provide more service oriented information about the special uses permit program. Please use the following link for CNF special use program processes and updates: www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland/.

If you have specific questions regarding your special uses application, please contact your local permit administrator. You may also contact Debbie Hobbs, Lands and Special Uses Program Manager, at (858) 674-2904.

Thank you for your patience as we implement the new CNF special uses program.

Sincerely,

William Metz

WILLIAM METZ
Forest Supervisor

Cc: Debra S Hobbs, Noelle Graham-Wakoski, Joan Friedlander, Keith W Fletcher, Donn Christiansen, Anabele Cornejo, Spencer Bleadorn, Jacob F Rodriguez, Bjorn Fredrickson