



**FOREST SERVICE HANDBOOK
STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST
SONORA, CA**

FSH 2790.11 – SPECIAL USES HANDBOOK

CHAPTER # 41 – RECREATION SPECIAL USES

SECTION # 41.23 – RECREATION RESIDENCE USE

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Approved: /S/ CHRISTINA M. WELCH FOR SUSAN SKALSKI **Date Approved:** October 1, 2009
Forest Supervisor

Posting Instructions: Supplements are numbered consecutively by Handbook number and calendar year. Post by document; remove the entire document and replace it with this supplement. Retain this transmittal as the first page(s) of this document. The last supplement to this Handbook was 2709.11 to 2709.111-200-1.

New Document	2709.111-200-1, 41.23	3 pages
Superseded Document(s) by Issuance Number and Effective Date	None	0 pages

Digest: Adds direction for fuels reduction and fire protection to FSH 2709.111-200-1, 41.23(h)(2.) General Lot Maintenance

Fuels reduction and fire protection for Recreation Residences:

Recreation residence permit holders are authorized under a special use authorization for the use and occupancy on National Forest System lands for a privately owned cabin and related improvements and/or structures for the purpose of personal, non-commercial recreational use. Recreation residence permit holders **do not own the land** their cabin and related improvements and/or structures occupy. Since they do not own the land, they are not authorized to remove,

**FSM # - 2709.11 – SPECIAL USES HANDBOOK
CHAPTER 41 – RECREATION SPECIAL USES**

reduce, or treat any vegetation on National Forest System Lands *without prior Forest Service approval.*

The following fuel treatment guidelines were developed by the Stanislaus National Forest and are intended to meet the objectives of the State of California Public Resource Code 4291 and State Guidelines 1299 by providing for defensible space around recreation residences and related (on and off) lot authorized structures and/or improvements. ***All Recreation Residence permit holders are required to implement these guidelines to comply with the terms and conditions of their Special Use Permit.***

Permit holders who do fuel reduction activities that remove or dispose of vegetation are required to comply with all Federal, state or local environmental protection laws and obtain permits when required as stated in the holders special use permits. (e.g. obtain burn permits)

Special Use Authorizations (SUA) operation plans will contain the following:

Permit holders are responsible to establish and maintain clearance of flammable vegetation within 100 feet of all structures or to the authorized permit boundary area, if the distance is less than 100 feet.

1) Trees

- a) Thin out thickets of trees that may create a fire hazard. Remove live trees that are **less** than 5 inches in diameter at chest height to create up to a 10 foot spacing between trees. Removal of live trees greater than 5 inches in diameter must have Forest Service approval.
- b) Sugar Pines may **not** be removed. (Young sugar pines can be identified by their bundles of 5 needles, their blue-green tint, and needles that are twisted and slender with sharp points.)
- c) Remove dead trees **less** than 10 inches in diameter at chest height. Removal of dead trees 10 inches or greater in diameter at chest height must have Forest Service approval.

2) Limbs

- a) Remove branches hanging over roofs.
- b) Remove all limbs within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe, or barbeque.
- c) Remove the lower branches of trees to eliminate the “fuel ladder” within 30 feet of a structure. There should be a minimum of 5 feet between the ground and the lowest branches. When pruning leave a ¼” stub, this will heal faster and protect the tree.

**FSM # - 2709.11 – SPECIAL USES HANDBOOK
CHAPTER 41 – RECREATION SPECIAL USES**

3) Brush

- a) Remove all brush within 5 feet of structures.
- b) Remove all dead brush including dead branches within live brush patches.
- c) Limit live brush to patches approximately 10 feet in diameter with 10 feet of separation between patches (to prevent rapid transmission of fire between fuel sources).

4) Pine Needles

- a) Remove all pine needles and leaves from roofs and rain gutters.
- b) Remove all flammable materials, including duff, out from the structure for at least 5 feet. Duff is the black layer of decomposing needles/vegetation. The 5 foot clearance around each structure should be cleared to bare soil.
- c) Between 5 and 100 feet of structures, or to the authorized permit boundary, remove all loose needles/leaves, while leaving a thin layer of compacted duff (decomposed vegetation) in place.
- d) Permission to clear beyond the 100 foot minimum, up to the authorized permit boundary is authorized.
- e) Permission to clear beyond the authorized permit boundary must be approved by the FS.

5) Propane Tanks

- a) Remove all woodpiles within 10 feet of propane tanks.
- b) Remove all vegetation other than trees within 10 feet of propane tank.
- c) Within 5 feet of a propane tank remove all live trees (seedlings) less than 5 feet tall and dead trees less than 10 inches in diameter at chest height.

6) Campfire Rings/Barbeques

- a) Remove all flammable materials within 5 feet of campfire rings and barbeques.