



United States Department of Agriculture

Recreation Residence



Forest Service

October 2017

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest is where civilization meets the “wild.”

It is located in northern Utah near Salt Lake City. Quick, convenient access is available to Forest visitors year-round, making the UWC an intensely used destination spanning backyard to backcountry.

The Forest encompasses about 2.2 million acres in northern Utah and southwestern Wyoming. There are eight offices located in Utah (South Jordan, Logan, Ogden, Salt Lake, Pleasant Grove, Spanish Fork, Heber and Kamas), and two in Wyoming (Evanston and Mountain View).



Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



The UWC receives about **9.1 million** visitors annually and is one of the most heavily visited forests in the nation. As a year-round destination, visitors can experience a variety of recreation opportunities, including:

- 5 downhill ski areas
- 441 recreational sites
- 6 scenic byways
- 9 wilderness areas
- 2,800 miles of trails



Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



Heritage Sites: The Forest currently manages approximately 1500 recorded archaeological historic sites. Many sites are candidates for interpretation programs and heritage tourism. More sites are identified each year by the Forest heritage staff, and there is potential for additional sites to be discovered.

Watersheds: Watershed management is an important and integral part of the UWC. The Forest Manages 42 watersheds that deliver culinary, irrigation, and municipal water to neighboring communities. A large portion of the culinary water for the Wasatch Front comes from adjacent canyons.

Partnerships and Volunteer Programs: The Forest has strong partnership and volunteer programs that host 11,000 – 13,000 volunteers annually. Working closely with state agencies, local communities, nonprofit organizations, and other partners, the Forest is able to accomplish critical resource management projects.



USDA Forest Service Mission



- The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations
- Gifford Pinchot, first chief of the Forest Service, summed up the mission of the Forest Service: “to provide the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run.”
- The phrase, “Caring for the Land and Serving People,” captures the Forest Service mission. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people.
- We follow laws, regulations, executive direction, and congressional intent.



How recreation residences became a reality

- Forest Service Act, 1891: Promoted private use and development of national forests.
- FS regulations, 1902-1905: Allowed special occupancy permits, **including summer residences.**
- Term Occupancy Act, 1915: Allowed up to 30- year permit terms.



Original (historical) concept for recreation resident tracts & cabins

Based on the late 19th – early 20th Century ideals, values & culture:

- Simple, rustic designs in harmony with forest setting and nature.
- Provide for family & group outdoor recreation activities.
- Seasonal (summer-fall) use.
- Relaxation & contemplation.
- FS engagement (tract-building plans, permits, amenities).



New Context: 1950's - Present



- Demographic: cultural change: urban/suburbanization, growth of middle class, leisure time, rising land values, etc.
- Dramatically increased recreation demand and competing uses on NFS lands.
- Differing public perceptions of public lands and their uses: commodity output, environmental protection, propriety uses, etc.
- Changing FS management requirements and practices; adapting to the future.



Facts about the recreation residence program on the UWC...



- There are 410 recreation residence cabins on the UWC - that is more than double any other forest in the Region.
- 25 recreation residence tracts.
- Tracts on all ranger districts except Ogden (and technically Mt. View).
- The first cabins were constructed in the late 1910s and early 1920s.



Summer Home Construction Wasatch NF Brighton Tract 1921

Recreation Residence Permit Holder



Many recreation residence and tracts are now historic (50 years in age or older). As a recreation residence permit holder, you are partner with the Forest Service in stewardship of these historic resources. As a permit holder of a historic recreation residence, you assume the responsibility of maintaining the natural and historic character of your structures, improvements, and the land around them.



Forest Service Special Use Permits



Recreation residences nearing the 50-year-old-threshold may qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The best way to preserve the significant historic, architectural, and cultural features of a recreation residence are continued use, careful preservation or rehabilitation, and periodic maintenance.



Construction of Recreation Residence Cabin – Cache NF Logan Canyon 1920

Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement of Recreation Residence



- If your recreation residence needs routine maintenance, minor changes, or major changes. Contact your district office and talk with your special use permit administrator.
- The Forest Service must individually approve any changes to the building or lot before they are made.
- This is needed because work done on your recreation residence has the potential to affect the natural environment and the historic character of any residence and tract over 50 years in age.
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).
- If a replacement building is necessary, this same process applies but with some additional guidelines.

Recreation Residence



The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache is actively involved in the management of recreation residences as they are an important aspect of our special uses program and we view you as partners.

Please be patient when working with your permit administrator concerning your recreation residence. Provide us time when submitting requests, as we need to work through our legal process.



Big Cabin NOA Camp 1922



Working Together



We look forward to working with you as a partner in preserving the natural and historic character of the tract in which your recreation residence is located. Working together, we can ensure that this area will retain its natural beauty and continue to provide the recreation opportunities you enjoy.

As you consider how to maintain your recreation residence to suit the needs of your family and guests, keep these general principles in mind. Our goal is to help you move through the necessary review and approval process smoothly and quickly.

Thank you



“... the National Forests serve a good purpose as great playgrounds for the people. They are used every year by campers, hunters, fisherman, and thousands of pleasure seekers from the near-by towns. They are great recreation grounds for a very large part of the people of the West, and their value in this respect is well worth considering”

--Gifford Pinchot, Use of the National Forests, 1907



Mirror Lake 1930's

