



File Code: 1950; 2720
Date: February 15, 2018

Dear Interested Party:

The Forest Service is considering issuing two special use permits for up to five-year terms to authorize multiple recreation events to operate annually on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the White River National Forest, Blanco Ranger District. These recreation events have been authorized in previous years under temporary (less than one year) special use permits. The proposed special use permits will be issued for terms up to, but not exceeding five years and will replace the existing or expired temporary recreation event special use permits authorizing these events. The events included in this proposed action are listed in the table below:

Event	Permit Holder	Timing
Rio Blanco County Search & Rescue Annual OHV Poker Run	Rio Blanco County Search & Rescue	Summer
James Sizemore Poker Ride and Fun Day	Mike Sizemore	Winter

These events are being included in the proposed action because they:

- Have been occurring on the Blanco Ranger District for many years under transitional special use permits.
- Are in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the existing/expired special use permit.
- Are proposed with no changes to scope, scale, or intensity compared to that which has been previously authorized.

You received this letter because the Forest Service believes you could potentially be affected or have an interest in the possible use of NFS lands associated with the recreation events listed above. The proposed authorizations would include the race route and placement of temporary facilities or other race related uses to provide for public safety and environmental protection. The Forest Service is only considering authorizing the use of roads, trails, bike paths, road pullouts, parking areas, and other requested lands that are part of the national forest system. Permit holders would be required to gain necessary annual approval and/or permits from State, county and local agencies. Approval and issuance of special use permits by the Forest Service would not affect State, county and local governmental permitting decisions.



A short description of each event and related maps can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53251>

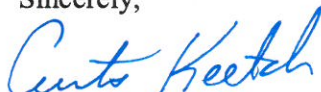
If you have concerns/suggestions about the effects of the described use of NFS lands and placement of support facilities by race organizers, please send us your written comments and be specific regarding the possible effects. **Comments concerning this action will be most helpful if received by or before March 23, 2018.**

Thank you for your involvement with projects proposed on NFS lands. To better serve the public, we are utilizing a standardized electronic platform for receiving comments called "Electronically Managed NEPA" (emNEPA). To submit comments via the electronic platform please go online at the following web address: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=53251>

If you are unable to submit comments electronically you may send hard mail comments to: U.S. Forest Service, White River National Forest; attention: Hillary Santana - Recreation Event Coordinator, 900 Grand Avenue, Glenwood Springs, CO: 81601.

If you have questions regarding the Forest Service actions with regard to this project please contact Hillary Santana, Recreation Event Coordinator at (970) 945-3202 or email hsantana@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Curtis Keetch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CURTIS KEETCH
District Ranger