

**Rio Grande National Forest**  
**Revised Land and Resource Management Plan Consistency Review**  
**and Determination for 12 Recreation Residence Tracts**

**Purpose**

Forest Service Manual 2721.23 and Forest Service Handbook 2709.11, section 42.23, provide direction and procedures to determine whether recreation residence term permits may be issued for a new term at current lots. Decisions to issue new recreation residence term permits following expiration of the current term permit require a determination of consistency with the current Forest Plan. This determination is made by evaluating the extent to which continued recreation residence use adheres to the Standards and Guidelines which apply to the appropriate Management Areas. The continuation of recreation residence use is addressed on a tract or group of tracts basis, not on individual lots.

**Findings**

Page I-5 of the Forest Plan addresses Forestwide Desired Conditions for Recreation which states “allows for current areas used as summer homes, resorts, and youth camps to continue to be managed as recreation special-use development areas.” Re-issuing 20 year term special use permits for the recreation residences is consistent with the desired condition.

The Table below displays the recreation residence tracts on the Rio Grande National Forest and the Management Area Prescriptions that apply to individual tracts.

Tract Name	District	Number of Developed Lots	Management Area Prescription
Blue Creek	Divide	6	5.42
Crooked Creek	Divide	1	4.3
King Summer Home	Divide	2	5.41
Lost Trail	Divide	6	4.3
Lucky Seven	Divide	7	4.4
Rio Grande Canyon	Divide	14	3.4
Riverside	Divide	1	4.21
Rock Spring	Divide	3	4.4
Spring Gulch	Divide	1	5.42
La Manga	Conejos Peak	5	4.21
McIntyre	Conejos Peak	3	4.21
Trail Creek	Conejos Peak	1	4.4
3.4-Designated and Eligible Scenic Rivers 4.21-Scenic Byways and Scenic Railroads 4.3-Dispersed and Developed Recreation 4.4-Eligible Recreation Rivers 5.13-Forest Products 5.41-Deer and Elk Winter Range 5.42-Special Wildlife Areas-Bighorn Sheep			

Management Area Prescription 3.4 (Designated and Eligible Scenic Rivers): The Standards and Guidelines for this Management Area Prescription will not be violated by reissuing term special use permits for the Rio Grande Canyon Tract.

Management Area Prescription 4.21 (Scenic Byways and Scenic Railroads): The Standards and Guidelines for this Management Area Prescription will not be violated by reissuing term special use permits for the Riverside, La Manga and McIntyre Tracts.

Management Area Prescription 4.3 (Dispersed and Developed Recreation): The Standards and Guidelines for this Management Area Prescription will not be violated by reissuing term special use permits for the Lost Trail and Crooked Creek Tracts. One of the Desired Conditions for this Management Area Prescriptions is "Summer homes, resorts, and youth camps are present and managed to provide unique recreation opportunities."

Management Area Prescription 4.4 (Eligible Recreation Rivers): The Standards and Guidelines for this Management Area Prescription will not be violated by reissuing term special use permits for the Rock Spring, Lucky Seven and Trail Creek Tracts.

Management Area Prescription 5.41 (Deer and Elk Winter Range): The Standards and Guidelines for this Management Area Prescription will not be violated by reissuing term special use permits for the King Summer Home Tract.

Management Area Prescription 5.42 (Special Wildlife Area-Bighorn Sheep): The Standards and Guidelines for this Management Area Prescription will not be violated by reissuing term special use permits for the Blue Creek and Spring Gulch Tracts.

### **Other Considerations**

*Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Forest Service Sensitive Species (TEPS):* Many of the recreation residence tracts are located in Canada lynx habitat. The effects to TEPS species will be analyzed through completion of a wildlife BE/BA and a plant BE/BA as part of the planning process following the development of a proposed action. The results of this analysis will be used by the Responsible Official in making a final decision (continuation determination).

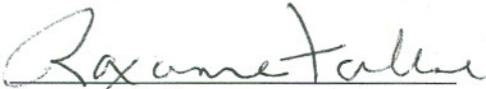
*Scenery Management Objectives:* The scenery management system includes 5 scenic integrity objectives of Preservation to Modification (ranging from very high to very low). The recreation residence tracts fit within high to moderate settings and most are subordinate to the surrounding characteristic landscape. The recreation residences fit within the Built Environment Image Guide for the Rocky Mountain Region.

*Recreation Opportunity Spectrum:* The ROS categories range from Primitive to Urban with six total categories. All recreation residences fall within semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, and rural settings. Each recreation residence tract is consistent with the appropriate recreation physical, social and managerial setting.

*Congressional Designations:* There are no congressional designations that affect the recreation residence tracts on the Rio Grande National Forest.

**Finding**

I have determined from a review of the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan dated November 7, 1996 that all 12 recreation residence tracts located on the Rio Grande National Forest are consistent with the Standards and Guidelines, Desired Conditions and Management Area Prescriptions. This Forest Plan Consistency Review is the first administrative step in a process that will result in the development of a proposed action for each tract and further planning (NEPA) that will result in a Decision/Continuation Determination for each tract.



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4/17/07  
Date