Santa Fe National Forest
Finding of Plan Consistency for Recreation Residence Tracts

I have determined that the recreation residence tracts located on the Santa Fe National Forest are consistent with the direction, standards, and guidelines contained in the Forest Plan as of the date of this review.

This consistency review is not a decision; therefore it is not subject to appeal. It is the first administrative step in a process that will serve as the basis for formulating a proposed action concerning continuation of recreation residence use, and will lead to a decision as to whether recreation residence uses within a tract may continue for another 20 years following the expiration of the current term permits.

A core and support interdisciplinary team conducted the Consistency Review. The Team comprised of District Lands and Recreation Staff, Landscape Architect and Compliance Specialist, Recreation Residence Specialist, Heritage Resource Specialist, Natural Resource and Watershed Specialist, Hydrologist, Wildlife Biologist, and a Procedure, Compliance and Environmental Planning Specialist. Information sources used as part of this Consistency Review include consultation with Supervisor's Office and Regional Office specialists as well as District personnel, Geographic Information System (GIS) data, Gallinas Municipal Watershed WUI Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice (2006), Forest Fire Management Plan, District Fire Prevention Plan, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS, FSM2311.1), permit administration files, and Forest Service Manual and Handbook direction.

Recommended by:

Signed: Joseph G. Reddan

JOSEPH G. REDDAN
District Ranger

Date: Feb 5, 2007

Approved by:

Signed: Daniel J. Jiron

DANIEL J. JIRON
Forest Supervisor

Dated: Feb. 5, 2007

Recreation Residence Consistency Review

The Forest Service Recreation Residence program gives private citizens the opportunity to own a single-family cabin in designated areas on the National Forests. They are commonly called "summer homes" or "recreation residences". These privately owned cabins ("improvements") are located within formally established tracts on lots designated for that purpose and are authorized and administered under the terms and conditions of a special use authorization (SUA) called a permit. The individual owns the improvements but not the land. The permit requires the payment of an annual rental fee based upon fair market value of the land, not including improvements, as determined by an appraisal.

In accordance with national direction, the Santa Fe National Forest must conduct a Forest Plan Consistency Review (CR) to determine whether the recreation residences are consistent with the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP 1987 & 1996) direction prior to reissuing 20 year term permits. Current permits will expire on December 31, 2009.

Recreation Residence Tracts, Santa Fe National Forest, Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District:

Tract	Number of Residences
Gallinas	18
Grass Mountain	44
Holy Ghost	24
Winsor Creek	24

Applicable policy direction:
FSM 2347.03(2): "Continue to authorize those existing facilities now occupying National Forest System land under special use authorization that:

- Are consistent with management direction given in the Forest land and resource management plan (FSM 2721.23e).

FSM 2709.11, 41.23(a): When a Forest Plan is amended or revised and recreation residence use remains consistent with management direction given in the Forest Plan, issue a new permit to same holder.

Summary:
A consistency review results in a determination as to whether the current recreation residence use, on a tract by tract (or grouping of tracts) basis, is either:

A. Consistent with the Forest Plan and other management decisions made for that land unit, OR
B. May not be consistent with the Forest Plan.

The consistency review is the first administrative step in a process that will lead to a decision as to whether recreation residence uses within a tract may continue for another 20 years following the expiration of the current term permits.

<u>The consistency review is not a decision</u> (therefore it is not subject to appeal). It is the first administrative step in a process that will serve as the basis for formulating a proposed action concerning continuation of recreation residence use.

The following tables list forest plan direction and standard and guidelines pertaining to recreation residences and make a finding of consistency with the Forest Plan.

Recreation Residence Forest Plan Consistency Matrix – Gallinas, Winsor, Grass Mountain, and Holy Ghost Tracts

Santa Fe National Forest Ranger District: Pecos/Las Vegas RD

Recreation		
Forest Plan Direction	**Standards and Guidelines**	**Finding**
Manage the recreation resource to increase opportunities for a wide variety of developed and dispersed experiences.	Prepare comprehensive operation and maintenance (O&M) plans of work annually to insure most effective use of dollars and human resources in all areas of recreation, special uses, and interpretive services management.	Tracts are managed to allow the public free access for all lawful and proper purposes. Exclusive use of National Forest System (NFS) lands is not authorized to recreation residence permit holders. Within recreation residence tracts, the general public may access NFS lands by walking across the permitted lot or parking in areas not under permit in accordance to the Operations and Maintenance Plan, FSM, Forest Plan and FSH.
Continue to integrate the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) system into the Forest planning process to quantify recreation opportunity changes, guide management, and coordinate recreation with other resources.	The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum for Roaded Natural states areas will have modifications ranging from being easily noticed to strongly dominate within the area. There is moderate evidence of the sites and sounds of man. The Rural setting indicates the area should be culturally modified to the point that it is dominate. Site and sounds of humans are readily evident.	The Forest is managing the tracts in accordance with the ROS system specific to each tract. The classification for Gallinas Tract is managed in accordance to the Roaded Natural spectrum. Winsor, Holy Ghost and Grass Mountain Tracts are managed in accordance to the Rural spectrum.

Lands		
Forest Plan Direction	**Standards and Guidelines**	**Finding**
Identify post and perpetuate National Forest boundaries.	Survey, post and maintain National Forest landlines in conformance with national standards. Continue to take action on occupancy trespass.	Grass Mountain, Holy Ghost Gallinas and Winsor are within National Forest boundaries.
Administer special uses to best meet public needs.		Meeting public needs is accomplished through administration of the special use permits in conjunction with the operation and maintenance plan to adhere compliance with Federal, State and local laws, regulations, and policies.

Visual Resources		
Forest Plan Direction	**Standards and Guidelines**	**Finding**
Maintain and enhance visual resource values by including Visual Quality Objectives (VQO) in resource planning and management activities, and designing projects to meet these objectives.	Apply design objectives and guidelines by Visual Quality Objectives (VQO). Management Area D is managed for the Visual Quality Objective of retention. Management Area J is managed for the Visual Quality Objectives ranging from retention to modification.	The Forest has met the integrity of the Visual Quality Objectives. Winsor, Holy Ghost, and Grass Mountain are within Management Area D, VQO managed is for retention. According to Forest Visual Resource Inventory, the Gallinas Tract is located within Management Area J and is managed for retention.
	Power lines of 69Kv or less must utilize location, design, and construction practices, including burial whenever feasible, to meet the VQO of Retention.	Existing lines will remain until the replacement or upgrades of power lines need to be addressed on case by case bases.

Fire Management		
Forest Plan Direction	**Standards and Guidelines**	**Finding**
Protect life and property from wildfire.	Provide appropriate fire prevention education and protection of areas where the potential for loss of life and loss of high resource values have been identified.	The Forest Service will limit response to activities necessary to control or contain the fire to the immediate area (using conventional wild-land fire suppression equipment). The Forest Service may assist in activities necessary for the protection of human life which can be done safely and is within the capacity training of involved personnel.
Protect forest resources from wildfire at a level commensurate with the value of the resource.	Establish the prevention program as needed to reduce preventable person caused fires. Coordinate prevention activities with adjacent landowners and other public land managing agencies.	The District Fire Prevention Action Plan achieves this by addressing district fire analysis, prevention objectives, and risks throughout the district, fire restrictions and area closures. Fire prevention will be additionally addressed within Summer Home Inspections completed on an annual basis.

Transportation and Utility Corridors		
Forest Plan Direction	**Standards and Guidelines**	**Finding**
	Roads needed only for private land access, special uses, or mineral activities will be built and maintained by the permittee to minimum standards for the intended use. They will be closed, drained and re-vegetated after final use.	Roads, driveways and bridges accessing recreation residences are maintained in condition not affecting public safety or other resource damage.

Cultural Resources		
Forest Plan Direction	**Standards and Guidelines**	**Finding**
Inventory, protect, evaluate, nominate, interpret, and enhance cultural resources. Coordinate planning for these activities with the State Historic Preservation Office, other State and Federal agencies, and Native American groups.	Coordinate cultural resource management with the State of New Mexico's historic preservation plan, the SHPO, the State Archeologist, and other State and Federal agencies to the extent possible.	Heritage Resource clearances for Projects, improvements and other activities within the Tracts are being completed unless undertaking is exempted according to the First Amended R3 Programmatic Agreement. Forest wide Standards and Guidelines for Cultural Resources in the Forest Plan and the terms of the First Amended Region 3 Programmatic Agreement with the SHPO and ACHP are being followed. Tribes are being consulted with on all projects (see district files).
	Assess the potential effects of proposed actions upon cultural resources. All sites will be initially evaluated to the extent necessary to determine If they are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Manage sites listed in, eligible for, nominated to, or potentially eligible for the NRHP to achieve a "no effect" finding in consultation with the SHPO and, as appropriate, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). Where resource conflicts preclude achievement of a no effect situation, manage sites to achieve a "no adverse effect" finding through consultation with the SHPO and ACHP.	Recreation Residences are being inventoried and evaluated for National Register eligibility on a case-by-case basis when applications for modifications have been received. Eligibility determinations and National Register Nominations are at the Tract Level. The eligibility of the entire tract is currently being evaluated for the Gallinas WUI project. A National Register nomination has not been made. Modifications have complied with "No Effect" and "No Adverse Effect" determinations. "Adverse Effect" determinations have not arisen yet in the Holy Ghost, Gallinas and Grass Mountain Tracts. On "Adverse Effect" determination was recently made in the Winsor Tract resulting in a MOA with the SHPO. The ACHP was consulted and chose not to be a participant in the MOA.

Wildlife		
Forest Plan Direction	**Standards and Guidelines**	**Finding**
Manage habitat to maintain viable populations of wildlife and fish species and improve habitat for selected species. Coordinate habitat management with other resource activities.	Wildlife emphasis to enhance riparian habitat, fisheries and big game winter range. Evaluate the impact of permitted summer homes on wildlife winter habitat, and consider in all permit tenure analysis processes.	Forest wide standards and guidelines for fish and wildlife resources in the Forest Plan, FSFEIS for Amendment of Forest Plans, and EA's and Forest plan amendment for managing special species habitat are being followed (see district files).
Identify, protect and enhance habitat that contains threatened, endangered, and sensitive species of plants and animals to	Continue to emphasize threatened, endangered and sensitive species for studies. Monitor management practices within	The Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan is administered in conjunction with the recreation residence permits for the Gallinas Tract. The Holy Ghost

contribute toward the goal of species recovery.	occupied and potential threatened or endangered species habitat and evaluate impacts. Accomplish recovery projects included in approved recovery plans. Projects will be coordinated through integrated forest management practices Manage threatened and endangered animal, fish and plant habitats to achieve delisting in a manner consistent with approved recovery plans. Monitor management practices within potential habitat for plants listed as T.E. or on the SW Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.	Ipomopsis Conservation Agreement is administered in Holy Ghost and Winsor Tracts. Recreation residence owners are notified of T & E species occurring within their area.
Watershed and Riparian		
Forest Plan Direction	**Standards and Guidelines**	**Finding**
Maintain water quality to meet or exceed state water quality standards.		The Recreation Residence Tracts are not contributing to the degradation of the water quality standards for any of the beneficial uses designated by the state.
Identify and protect wetlands and floodplains.	Identify the base floodplain (100 year runoff event) on Forest lands when facilities or public safety may be affected by flooding. Obtain Section 404 permits from the Army Corps of Engineers for activities within stream channels not already covered in the nationwide permit.	Floodplains and stream management zones are identified in SFNF GIS corporate layers. In the Gallinas Tract, 15 of the 18 residences are located within the 100-year flood plain. In the Holy Ghost Tract, 16 of the 24 residences are located within the 100-year flood plain. In the Winsor Tract, 16 of the 24 recreation residences are located within the 100-year flood plain. The Grass Mountain Tract is not located in or around any flood plain.
Achieve satisfactory condition in riparian ecosystems. Maintain areas that are currently in good condition. Minimize disturbances due to resource activities and other uses in the riparian zone.	Riparian areas should be managed toward meeting the following guidelines: Ground cover Provide average ground cover of plants and litter at 80% of natural levels. Shade Provide shading over perennial and intermittent water surfaces that is 80 % of natural levels considering unit reaches of about two miles in length. Bank cover Provide shrub and tree cover along bank lengths that are 80% of natural levels. Give emphasis to the protection of stream bank stability provided by woody plant roots, particularly on outside bends of stream channel meanders. Streambed sedimentation Composition of sand, silt and clays within streambeds should not exceed 20% of natural levels. Plant composition	Mitigating measures (BMP's) are included in management of Holy Ghost, Gallinas, Winsor Recreation Tracts. Grass Mountain is not in a riparian zone. Monitoring of existing condition indicates a properly functioning riparian zone at this time, in accordance with the LRMP and other directives cited above.

	Provide at least 60% of the woody plant composition in three or more riparian species. Plant structure Provide at least 3 age classes of riparian trees and shrubs, with at least 10% of the cover in the seedling sapling stages and 10% in the mature and over mature. Crown cover Provide crown cover of both trees and shrubs that is 80% of natural levels considering unit reaches of about 2 miles in length.	