



File Code: 1950/2720-2

Date: March 13, 2007

Dear Friend of the Ashley National Forest:

The Flaming Gorge Ranger District is seeking your input on a proposal to renew the Lucerne Marina Special Use Permit for a term of 30 years. In addition, we request your input on a proposal by Lucerne Marina to construct an RV park inside the boundaries of the existing Marina permit. This letter and the attached documents should provide you with information you need to access the proposed project.

Background

Lucerne Valley Marina is located near the Wyoming/Utah border in Daggett County Utah, seven miles east of Manila, Utah in Sections 19 and 20, T3N, R21E.

Lucerne Marina was first permitted in 1965. The Master Plan was completed in 1979 and included development of an RV Park similar to the present proposal. The Forest Service accepted that plan, however, the economic conditions were not in the permittee's favor and the development was not undertaken.

Presently, the Marina provides dry storage for 500 units, moorage, fuel, equipment rental, repair services and full-time mechanic, convenience store, limited administrative housing, small shop and equipment storage. In addition, the marina offers 200 rental slips, boat/houseboat rental, floating cabins. The marina currently covers a footprint of 80 acres.

Purpose and Need

The purpose and need for this proposed action is to comply with standards and guidelines for the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area outlined in the 1977 Flaming Gorge Management Plan, the Ashley National Forest Plan and The Region 4 Recreation Niche Study.

Flaming Gorge Corporation has indicated that they have received numerous requests for power service, sewer hook up, and services that are consistent with a typical RV park. Flaming Gorge Corporation currently operates approximately 25 sites with electrical hookups within Lucerne Campground. These facilities fill to 100% capacity on weekends and holidays, and 90% on weekdays since installation. Buckboard Marina, located approximately 30 miles north of Manila in the upper end of Flaming Gorge Reservoir, currently operates a full-service RV park of 40 sites. For the 2006 season they operated at near 99% capacity for all summer season days.

The 1986 Forest Plan directs, "Administer the Lucerne Management Unit as a major, high density recreation complex and provide services for the public that are appropriate for such a site. Improve site to a recreation scale 4 of 5." It also directs, "Encourage the concessionaire to provide trailer hookups and other needed services and facilities." Moreover, the plan guides, "Encourage commercial development by the private sector both on and off the National Forest System lands, where compatible with NRA standards and objectives.



Furthermore, the plan directs “provide for multi-family, multi-vehicle camping and give special consideration in planning to provide for the increased use of vehicle campers, trailers and motor homes.”

As a part of our effort to comply with the standards listed above, the Flaming Gorge Ranger District and the Ashley National Forest are reviewing a project proposal received from Flaming Gorge Corporation, owner of Lucerne Marina, for the construction of an RV park as described below under **Proposed Action**.

Proposed Action

The proposed action would authorize construction of an RV park as seen in Exhibit A. The proposed park would be constructed completely within the bounds of the existing Marina footprint. An aerial photo of the proposed project area and its current condition is included as Exhibit B. The RV park would offer electrical, sewer, and water hookup to each individual unit. The proposed project would be constructed in three phases. The first phase would include the areas listed as Linwood and Rainbow as shown on Exhibit A. In addition, the first phase of the proposed park would include construction of public showers and laundry facilities. The Forest Service would predicate construction of the second and third phases on the financial success of the first phase and compliance to Forest Service permit standards by Lucerne Marina. Please note, in order to accommodate larger recreational vehicles and recreational vehicles with double slide outs, the site density of Phase I shown in Exhibit A would be decreased by five sites. Exhibit C, also included, is a landscape view image of the proposed project area.

Decision Framework

Based on public comments developed from response to this scoping notice, and on site-specific analysis, the responsible official will determine whether significant issues or concerns exist. The responsible official will also determine:

- The appropriate mitigation measures to employ in protecting resources in the immediate project area.
- The appropriate level of environmental analysis documentation.

Request For Comments

The public is invited to offer comments at this time. The scoping and comment period are running concurrently. Under new regulations effective June 4, 2003, a comment period can be at the Responsible Official's discretion. The comment period ends 30 days after the publication of the Legal Notice in the *Vernal Express*. Substantive comments are those within the scope, are specific to, and have direct relationship to the proposed actions, and include supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision. Each individual or representative from each organization submitting substantive comments must either sign the comments or otherwise verify identity. Comments received in response to this notice, including

names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project.

Based on public comments developed from response to this scoping notice, and on site-specific analysis, the responsible official will determine whether significant issues or concerns exist.

Comments should include the information required pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3), as published in the Federal Register on March 22, 2005. Send your written comments to: Jeff Schramm, District Ranger, Flaming Gorge Ranger District, P. O. Box 279, Manila, Utah 84046. Comments may also be hand delivered to the above address during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays. Hand delivered comments must be time and date stamped at the District office by close of business on the 30th calendar day following publication of the legal notice. Electronic comments should be sent to comments-intermtn-ashley@fs.fed.us. It would be most useful for the Forest to receive your electronic comments in Microsoft word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf). Those using electronic means may submit a scanned signature. Otherwise, another means of verifying the identity of the individual or organizational representative may be necessary for electronically submitted comments or comments received by phone. This is pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3)(b).

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Don Kranendonk at (435) 781-5245 or Fax 435-781-5295.

Sincerely,

/S/ JEFF SCHRAMM

JEFF E. SCHRAMM
District Ranger

Enclosures