

# **Caribou-Targhee National Forest**

## **Consistency Review for the Caribou National Forest Scout Mountain Recreation Residence Tract**

### **Introduction**

The Caribou National Forest has one recreation residence tract on the Westside Ranger District; the Scout Mountain Recreation Residence tract. There are 10 lots in this tract. Lot numbers are the numbers of lots with existing special use authorizations. Special use authorizations expire in 2008.

According to Forest Service direction, the Caribou-Targhee National Forest must conduct a Forest Plan Consistency Review to determine whether the recreation residence tracts on the Forest are consistent with the 2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest. Policy outlined in Forest Service Manual 2721.23e (FSM2721.23e) specifies the procedures and analysis to be completed. “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. Make this determination by evaluating the extent to which continued recreation residence use adheres to the standards and guidelines, which apply to the appropriate management area. Address continuation of recreation residence use on a tract or group of tracts basis, not on individual lots. (FSM2721.23e)” “When recreation residence use is consistent with the Forest plan, it shall continue. (FSM2721.23e(1)).”

### **Method**

The 2003 Revised Caribou Forest Plan (RFP) was analyzed to identify specific forest wide standards and guidelines, subsection direction, and management prescriptions that applied to the recreation residence tract. Those areas of the RFP that applied to the recreation residence tracts were drafted into a table to create an efficient means of reference. Forest specialists, in concert with the special use permit administrator, analyzed current special use permit administration and overall management of the tract against direction in the RFP and provided documentation addressing whether or not the tract is in compliance with the RFP. Appendix 1, 2003 Revised Forest Plan Caribou National Forest Recreation Residence Consistency Review - Scout Mountain Tract, is the result of those findings. Individual specialist reports are available in the project file.

## Background

The Revised Caribou Forest Plan forest wide standards and guidelines are common to the entire forest, however, not all standards and guidelines apply specifically to the recreation residence tracts. For example, several standards and guidelines apply to activity areas or analysis areas, which may not include the recreation residence tract or are actually met in a larger area than just the recreation residence tract. Those that do apply have been identified in Appendix 1. Those that do not apply were identified during the process and are listed in the project file.

Scout Mountain recreation residence tract is located within the Forest Plan subsection Basin and Range Transitional Mountains Subsection and was evaluated for its consistency with RFP subsection direction.

All areas of the forest are allocated to a prescription area within the RFP. Prescription 4.2, Special Use Authorization Recreation Sites, includes recreation residence tracts. This prescription also applies to ski areas, resorts, organization camps, and other highly developed uses authorized by a special use authorization. The emphasis is on providing privately operated types of recreation on National Forest land for large concentrated groups of people. Overall, visitors find many signs of people. Visitors see little or no evidence of resource development, except for recreation. Cabins and buildings used by permittees are visible, but they blend into the surroundings. Roads are generally graveled, but may be paved in higher use areas. OHV use is limited to entry and departure routes and for administrative purposes. In some areas, visitors may see extensive development associated with ski areas or resorts; for example, buildings, ski lifts, maintenance equipment, etc. Many pedestrians and cars may be seen in these areas. Prescription area direction may override forest wide direction.

## Discussion

Forest and district specialists evaluated the recreation residence tract management against RFP direction during the summer and fall 2004. In addition to the Revised Caribou Forest Plan, other information sources included existing permit administration files, Forest Service Manual and Handbook direction, and the National Historic Preservation Act. The District permit administrator completed inspections on each lot. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, a contractor performed surveys and evaluations for each recreation residence. Documentation of existing cabins within the recreation residence tract was completed and reports were forwarded to the State Historic Preservation Office for final determinations.

The Scout Mountain recreation residence tract on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Westside Ranger District is consistent with the 2003 Revised Caribou Forest Plan. The tract was found to be consistent in all areas.

