



File Code: 1950

Date: March 7, 2008

Dear Forest User:

### **Purpose of this scoping document**

You are invited to comment on our proposal to authorize continued recreation residence use on the Tibble Fork & Silver Lake Recreation Residence Tracts. This notice contains background information about these recreational residences and associated improvements and the Forest Service environmental review process.

### **What is being proposed?**

The Forest Service proposes to authorize continued recreation residence use for 38 lots at Tibble Fork Recreation Tract and 13 lots at Silver Lake Recreation Tract. The location of the tract is shown on the attached map. If continued use is approved, the lots and associated improvements would be administered according to the *Recreation Residence Management Administrative Guidelines for the Uinta National Forest*.

### **Why are we proposing this project?**

National direction requires that the issuance of a special use permit must be consistent with laws and regulations that govern the National Forest, and not in conflict with forest management plans and other applicable laws. The existing permits will expire December 31, 2008 upon which time new permits will need to be issued. Issuance of new permits requires a two-step process.

The first step is a *consistency review*, comparing conditions at each tract with the Revised Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (2003 Revised Forest Plan). In March 2008, a National Forest Recreation Residence Consistency Review and Findings was completed for the Tibble Fork tract and it was determined that they currently are consistent with the Forest Plan for each areas was identified in the revision and a management prescription of 8.4 *Recreation Residence* was assigned to the tracts.

The second step in the process is referred to as the *continuation determination*, which will culminate in a decision whether or not to authorize current facilities and continue their use on the existing lot for the next 20 years. The public notice is an important part of the continuation determination.

Part of the continuation determination has been a complete inspection against the provisions of their term permit; some permit holders in the tracts were inconsistent with their authorization and must undertake measures to bring their recreational residence into compliance with their permit. Nonconforming permits were listed in three categories, no, minor and major discrepancies:

No discrepancies are ones that have been found in compliance with the provisions of their term permits and therefore, can be issued new permits. Tibble Fork cabins by lot that fell into this



category are 5, 6, 10, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, and 27 and Silver Lake cabins are 6, 25, 26, 27, 31, 34, and 42.

Minor discrepancies are ones that can be remedied easily with little investment and must be addressed before permit issuance. Tibble Fork cabins by lot that fell into this category are 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and Silver Lake cabins are 1, 2, 15, 17, and 23. These cabins need site changes completed, additional documents provided, or both to bring their permit into compliance.

Major discrepancies are ones that cannot be remedied easily without large investment prior to permit issuance. Tibble Fork cabins by lot that fell into this category are 13 and 33 and Silver Lake has none. These cabins will be issued conditional permits until the cabin changes ownership, at which time the cabin must be brought into compliance.

### **Background**

The recreation residence program was started by the Forest Service in the early 1900s to encourage public use of the National Forests. Currently there are 14,285 recreation residences operated under special use permits, located in 53 National Forests in the Western United States. Recreation residences are homes and associated facilities that are owned and maintained by private individuals, but located on National Forest System land and authorized by a special use permit.

Recreation residences are a valid use of National Forest System lands and are an important component of the overall National Forest recreation program. It is Forest Service policy to continue recreation residence use and to work in partnership with holders of these permits to maximize the recreational benefits of these residences (FSM 2347.1). At the same time there is recognition that the program will not grow significantly larger.

The Pleasant Grove Ranger District of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah County, Utah has two recreation residence tracts with term permits expiring on December 31, 2008.

The Tibble Fork recreation residence tract consists of 38 lots that are authorized under current term permits. The tract is accessed via State Road 92 in American Fork Canyon and Forest Service Road #85. The Tibble Fork tract is located south of Tibble Fork Reservoir. The general area includes Township 4 South, Range 3 East; Sections 7, 8, 17, and 18. There are no in-lieu lots and current policy is for no additional lots or in-lieu lots to be established for this tract. The area authorized under the current recreation residence special use permits totals approximately 17 acres for the lots.

The Silver Lake recreation residence tract consists of 13 lots that are authorized under current term permits. The tract is accessed via State Road 92 in American Fork canyon and Forest Service Roads #85 and #8. The Silver Lake tract is located south of Silver Lake Reservoir. The general area includes Township 4 South, Range 3 East; Section 6. There are no in-lieu lots and current policy is for no additional lots or in-lieu lots to be established for this tract. The area authorized under the current recreation residence special use permits totals approximately 8 acres for the lots.

### **Environmental Review Process**

A preliminary assessment suggests that the project falls within a category of action listed in the Forest Service Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook 1909.15, Section 31.2 (15),

*“Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are no changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized facilities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.”*

Projects under this category may be excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Further analysis will be conducted to determine if any extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude use of the category. This comment period provides those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Forest Supervisor who is the Responsible Official for this decision.

### **Preliminary Issues**

At this time, no preliminary issues or concerns have been identified. Your comments will help us focus the analysis on the most important environmental issues and concerns.

### **Public Involvement**

Comments should be received by **April 14, 2008** and should include your name, address, and telephone number. To be most useful, your comments should include concerns you believe we should consider before reaching a decision on the proposed project. Comments received will become part of the public record and may be made available to others upon request.

Comments should be directed to:

**John Logan, District Ranger, 390 N 100 E, Pleasant Grove, Utah 84062.**

Electronic comments should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to:

[comments-intermtn-uinta-Pleasant Grove@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-uinta-Pleasant Grove@fs.fed.us).

For more information please contact Joe McFarlane at (801) 342-5247 or by email at: [jmcfarlane@fs.fed.us](mailto:jmcfarlane@fs.fed.us). Thank you for your interest in the management of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Sincerely,

*/s/ John R. Logan*  
JOHN R. LOGAN  
District Ranger

Enclosures