United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Baldwin/White Cloud Ranger Station
P.O. Box "D"
Baldwin, MI 49304

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File Code: 2720

Date: April 17, 2007

Dear Interested Citizen,

Wayne Gastfield, of White River Rides has applied for a special-use permit to hold three competitive horseback endurance rides. The event route for all rides would take place on private, county and National Forest two-track roads in Denver and Lincoln Townships, Newyago County. Each ride is a two-day event and will be held the: First weekend in May, Second weekend in June, and Labor Day Weekend. Approximately 300 riders will participate in the combined events. In the past the Martin Creek CCC camp has been used as a staging area for overnight camping for this event. This area has been closed to overnight camping and participants will now stage and camp at Timbers Edge, a private campground located on the corner of Harrison and Warner Roads. The event route and camp location is identified on the enclosed map.

These trail rides have been an annual event since 1987, using the proposed locations. Mr. Gastfield's track record as a permittee has been very good. His events have been well attended and the actions and behavior of event participants has been exemplary. The length of the route has been reduced from past events. Adjustments have been made to minimize impacts to property owners. To date, activities associated with the event have caused no irreparable damage to roads or natural resources. The Forest Service is not aware of any complaints concerning this event made to the Newaygo County Sheriff Department or the Newaygo County Road Commission. Forest Service personnel monitor each event and have not observed any problems along the event route. Mr. Gastfield has a permit with the Newaygo County Road Commission that allows him to use county roads for his event and provides for road grading after each event. The necessary surveys have been completed by Forest Service specialists to hold this event on the roads as indicated on the attached map. If the permit were granted it would be a 5-year permit.

We feel it is important that you are aware of the proposed request for a special use permit for these events so you may comment, ask questions, or make suggestions. More detailed maps are available for review at the Baldwin District Office. If you would like to respond, send your comments to: Kathy Bietau U.S. Forest Service Drawer D Baldwin, MI 49304.

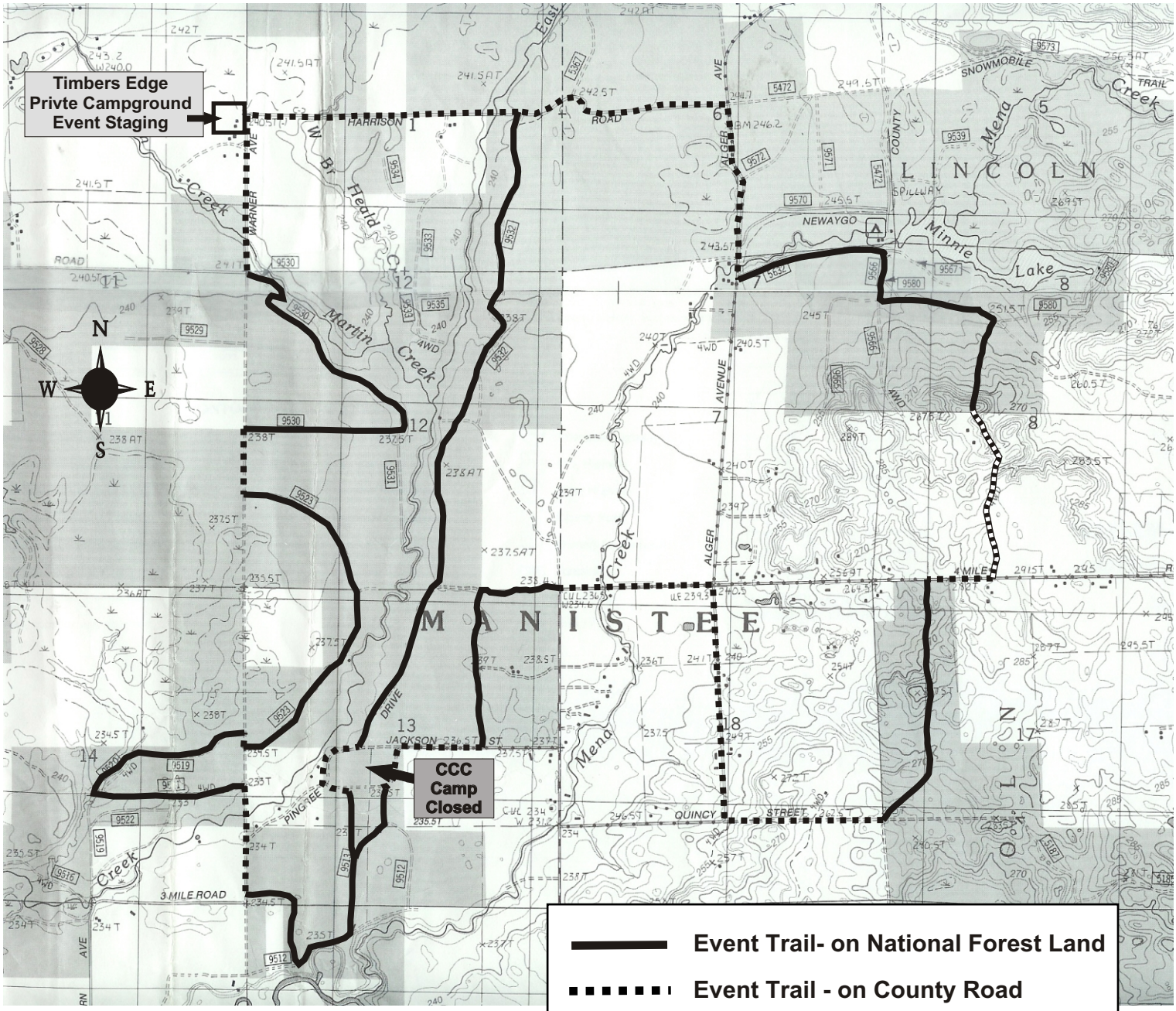
You may also comment by phone at (231) 745-4631 ext. 3117. We would like to hear from you by May 18, 2007.

Sincerely,

LESLIE E. RUSSELL
District Ranger

enclosures

Special Use Recreation Event
White River Rides
Manistee National Forest - White Cloud Ranger District
Lincoln Township T14N R13W Sections 6-8, 17-18
Denver Township T14N R14W Sections 1, 12-14, 24
Newaygo County, Michigan



Event Trail- on National Forest Land

Event Trail - on County Road

Event Trail - on Private Land

Staging - Private Campground

National Forest Lands

Private Lands

Map Scale

0 — 1 mile

Exhibit A