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Environmental Assessment

Recreation Residence Standards & Guidelines and Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan

Cherokee National Forest
Polk and Monroe Counties, Tennessee

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INTRODUCTION

Document Structure

The Forest Service has prepared this Environmental Assessment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations. This Environmental Assessment discloses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that would result from the proposed action and alternatives. The document is organized into five parts:

- *Introduction:* The section includes information on the history of the project proposal, the purpose of and need for the project, and the agency's proposal for achieving that purpose and need. This section also details how the Forest Service informed the public of the proposal and how the public responded.
- *Comparison of Alternatives, including the Proposed Action:* This section provides a more detailed description of the agency's proposed action as well as alternative methods for achieving the stated purpose. These alternatives were developed based on significant issues raised by the public and other agencies. This discussion also includes possible mitigation measures. Finally, this section provides a summary table of the environmental consequences associated with each alternative.
- *Environmental Consequences:* This section describes the environmental effects of implementing the proposed action and other alternatives. This analysis is organized by resource area. Within each section, the affected environment is described first, followed by the effects of the No Action Alternative that provides a baseline for evaluation and comparison of the other alternatives that follow.
- *Agencies and Persons Consulted:* This section provides a list of preparers and agencies consulted during the development of the environmental assessment.
- *Appendices:* The appendices provide more detailed information to support the analyses presented in the environmental assessment.

Additional documentation, including more detailed analyses of project-area resources, may be found in the project planning record located at the Supervisor's Office in Cleveland, TN.

Background

Recreation Residences

The Organic Administration Act of 1897 gave federal managers the authority to permit uses of the forest reserves (later change to National Forest). However, the one-year permit that allowed cabin construction in these early years made investment risky and, as a consequence, only marginally popular. Congress eliminated this obstacle with the passage of the Act of March 4, 1915 providing the authority to set aside land, not exceeding five acres, for construction of summer homes with multi-year occupancy permits. These permitted, privately owned cabins may be inherited or the improvements sold, however, in either case, the Forest Service continues to retain ownership of the underlying land.

The south zone of the Cherokee National Forest contains sixty-two of these recreation residences along the shores of Parksville Lake on the Ocoee/Hiwassee Ranger District and 7 recreation residences

in the Tellico River Corridor on the Tellico Ranger District. See Appendix A for maps indicating the location of the residences.

Because the lands of the Cherokee National Forest were acquired from private ownership during the 1920's and 1930's and beyond through the use of the Weeks Act of 1911 these recreation residences in some cases were already present when the lands became National Forest. When the lands around the Parksville Lake were acquired by the Forest Service (from Tennessee Valley Authority) in 1940 there were 17 lots, 15 existing recreation residences, and four unpermitted cabins around the lake. All of these structures were also present when Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) acquired the reservoir and lands from the Tennessee Electric and Power Company. During both changes in land ownership the improvements were owned by private individuals, however the lands they sat on were owned by either the TVA or the Tennessee Electric and Power Company.

The Forest Service surveyed additional lots in the 1940's bringing the total number of lots for summer homes to 66. Permits for summer homes were offered to individuals based on these lots. Once a permit was issued the permittee had one year to build a recreation residence. If a structure was not built within the one year timeframe the permit was forfeited and the lot was offered to someone else on the waiting list. In 1961 the Cherokee National Forest (CNF) policy on summer home sites changed. Ranger Christensen in his letter of April 21, 1961 stated "In the future, due to greatly increased demand for development of public camping and picnicking areas, it is necessary to give highest priority to this general public use. This requires all available sites on the Cherokee and, accordingly, no additional summer home sites be established."

When TVA transferred their lands (Contract Transfer Agreement #TV56799) on August 12, 1940 they excluded all that portion of said land lying on the upstream side of the Parksville Dam and having the elevation of its present ground surface below the plane of the 838 foot (MSL) contour. In addition TVA granted to the Department of Agriculture, its agents, and servants the right of access to and use of TVA's land between the high and low water marks on Parksville Lake along with the right of access to and use of the waters of said lake for the purpose of constructing and maintaining thereon boating and recreational facilities, piers, docks, and related equipment, and of performing all other acts which may be reasonably necessary to the administration and conduct of the lands. TVA also stated that nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect in any way the powers given to TVA by section 26 (a) of the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933, as amended, with respect to the approval of all structures on the rivers of the Tennessee River System. This is why TVA and the Forest Service both issue permits for facilities in this area and why TVA defers to the Forest Service for approval of all water use facilities.

Recreation Residence 14 and lot lie on the north side of U.S. 64 and across the road from the Lake Ocoee Inn and Marina. This recreation residence is 1,100 feet north of U.S. 64 and it is the only recreation residence that does not have access to Parksville Lake (i.e. deck/dock on the lake shore). This is one of the existing recreation residences that was transferred to the Forest Service in 1940 from TVA.

The Forest Service acquired a tract from Babcock Lumber and Land Company and Tellico River Lumber Company in 1925, which contained a school house, built in 1924 by the Monroe County School Board. In 1945 a recreation special use permit was issued for the Monroe County school house and lot. The Forest Service also surveyed lots for additional summer home sites. Six additional permits for the current summer homes were issued from 1929 till 1945.

Current Forest Service Policy for Recreation Residences is found in Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2347.1 “Recreation residences are a valid use of National Forest System lands. They provide a unique recreation experience to a large number of owners of recreation residences, their families, and guests. To the maximum extent practicable, the recreation residence program shall be managed to preserve the opportunity it provides for individual and family-oriented recreation. It is Forest Service direction to continue recreation residence use and to work in partnership with holders of these permits to maximize the recreational benefits of recreation residences.”

The current Cherokee National Forest Design and Construction Standards for Summer Homes were developed in September 1991 and amended in April 1999. In addition, a plan of Operation and Maintenance is required by Clause II of the 1994 version of the recreation residence permit (2700-5a). The construction standards were developed to ensure recreation residences were in compliance with the standards and guidelines of the 1986 Cherokee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and met the requirements of the Operation and Maintenance Plan.

Camp Cherokee

In 1949 the Forest Service issued a Special Use Permit for the construction of a Boy Scout Camp in Sylco Inlet of Parksville Lake (see Appendix A for location). This camp was converted into an organizational camp in 1980 by First Baptist Church of Cleveland, Tennessee and has been maintained under the name of Camp Cherokee since that time. There are 44 acres at Camp Cherokee and 0.1 acres at Mac Point. The 44 acres contained within the permit boundary consist of permanent facilities such as bathhouses, a dining hall, a group shelter, and living quarters for adults, boys, and girls. Existing shoreline improvements include a swimming area and two boat docks. The camp provides organized outdoor recreational opportunities for youths and adults and has approximately 1,900 visitors each year, with more than 90% of the total use reported being organized youth groups.

Direction on Organizational Camps is found in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2709.11 section 41.13 “This use of National Forest System lands involves camps, generally operated by nonprofit organizations, institutions, or governmental agencies, that promote the physical, mental and spiritual health of young people, individuals with a disability, and their families, through activities conducted in a natural environment”. And in FSH 2709.11 section 41.13b “Encourage the holder to construct facilities and develop programs that promote environmental education, hiking, fishing, and similar forest-related activities, rather than organized games or other urban activities”.

The authority to issue term special use permit for recreation residences and organizational camps is contained in the Occupancy Permits Act of March 4, 1915 (as amended), and the Organic Administration Act of June 4, 1897 (as amended).

Purpose and Need for Action

Recreation Residences

The Cherokee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was revised in 2004. The 1999 Design and Construction Standards for Summer Homes were reviewed and determined to be out of compliance with the Cherokee National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (RLRMP) (USDA 2004a). The purpose of the proposed Cherokee National Forest Revised Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines is to replace the outdated Cherokee National Forest Design and Construction Standards for Summer Homes and bring them into compliance with the RLRMP.

The current owner of recreation residence 14 is requesting that it be converted from a recreation residence and maintained by a commercial entity as a rental cabin. This is permitted by FSH 2721.23a (USDA 2007) "As with any resource allocation made in a forest land and resource management plan, the forest supervisor may reconsider a decision to continue or convert recreation residence lots to an alternative public use at any time new or changed conditions merit such reconsideration." This particular recreation residence does not have access to Parksville Lake and is immediately adjacent to a commercially permitted marina. Any future development of Lake Ocoee Inn and Marina would place additional facilities near the existing cabin and could impose on individual use of the cabin. The possible encroachment on the use of this individual residence has been used to establish that this tract has a higher public purpose.

Camp Cherokee

Camp Cherokee believes their Site Development Plan (2002) is out of date and needs modifications. They have prepared and are proposing a new Master Site Plan (to be approved under the Special Use Permit) to move toward meeting the changing recreational needs of the public while fulfilling the purpose of organizational camps on National Forest System (NFS) land, which is to promote the physical, mental, and spiritual health of young people, individuals with a disability, and their families through activities conducted in a natural environment. This plan defines a program and development direction for the Camp well into the 21st Century. Its intent is to present a long range development proposal for the orderly development of the permit area.

Proposed Action

Recreation Residences

The proposed action is to adopt the Cherokee National Forest Revised Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines (Appendix B). The proposed Cherokee National Forest Revised Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines have been developed to guide the Forest Supervisor's decisions on lot improvements, water use facilities, and vegetation management at the recreation residence sites. They were also developed to assist the recreation residence owner in the use of their permit. Of the multitude of laws and policies four key foundations stand out as driving management of recreation residences on the Cherokee National Forest.

1. Use of Recreation Residences not preclude general public use and enjoyment.
2. The primary use of Recreation Residences is as vacation sites.
3. Construction and use of Recreation Residences meet forest environmental standards.
4. Recreation Residences and associated facilities meet national standards for construction and maintenance to ensure safe use by the permit holders and others on site.

Camp Cherokee

The proposed action is to approve Camp Cherokee's new Master Site Plan (Appendix C) to move toward meeting the changing recreational needs of the public while fulfilling the purpose of organizational camps on NFS land. The Forest Service encourages the holder to construct facilities and develop programs that promote environmental education, hiking, fishing, and similar forest-related activities, rather than organized games or other urban activities. Camp Cherokee's primary purpose is

to provide a unique respite where guests can come away from their everyday routine lifestyle experiences and find new friends to share new challenges and learning experiences in a unique natural setting. This plan defines a program and development direction for the Camp well into the 21st Century. Its intent is to present a long range development proposal for the orderly development of the permit area. The proposal involves expand the permit area from the current 44 acres to 58 acres.

The proposed Master Plan establishes three zones in the permit area (see Appendix C).

- Zone I is to be the area developed to primarily to serve families who wished to enjoy "camping" in a modest residential environment, a private, single family, duplex, household cabin, with amenities. Additions and improvements to Zone 1 include: maintenance shop and office, caretaker residence, gear depot, two program lodges, a country store, a waterfront storage unit, move the boys cabin (8 currently) to a new location in Zone 2 (11 cabins). The dimension of the boys cabin is 20' x 22'. The old reservoir would continue to support the existing kitchen facility and old boys bathhouse. Three family quarters (30' x 60', duplex with bath and kitchen facilities) would be constructed at the former boys cabin location.
- Zone II is the whole center of the permit area, which supports the traditional Camp. Additions and improvements include: dining hall, staff housing and lounge, wellness center/nurse, new boys and girls cabins (as stated above and three new additional, respectively) and bathrooms, an incinerator upgrade, assembly/recreation center, and water ski and camp stores. A waterline and respective trenches from the "new reservoir" (approved under a previous decision) would be constructed to the girls and boys bathhouses and the camp director residence. In addition, a functional ropes course 50' x 75' would be constructed.
- Zone III is established primarily to accommodate those adults, individuals, and groups who have very little interest in the "Spartan" accommodations usually associated with "camping" but do wish to share in the richness of the experience, but in a more sophisticated living and service environment. Thus a conference center, offering comfortable motel style rooms, meeting and dining spaces, is the flagship facility of Zone III. Other additions and improvements to Zone III include: theater, eight cabins, welcome tent, gazebo, equipment shed, and three shelters. The campfire area receives extensive use and reconstruction to an area of 100' x 100' and appropriate bank stabilization is proposed.
- Other related improvements scattered throughout the permit area to include: roads, trails, parking; utilities; shoreline improvements, including docks and beaches; landscaping; and signs, gates, and fencing.

Developments listed in the Master Site Plan would receive further site specific review as individual structure/site plans are finalized. Amendments to the existing permit would be issued as individual plans are submitted to the Forest Service. Each amendment would authorize the actual construction of that particular phase of the Master Site Plan. The following process would be used to issue an amendment to the special use permit.

Camp Cherokee presents the Forest Service with site specific plans for the specific aspect of the Master Site Plan they wish to implement. These plans would include: drawings from an engineer or architect licensed in Tennessee; an erosion control plan; a septic permit issued by the Polk County Waste Waster specialist, if needed; and other pertinent state or county permits. Appropriate Forest Service personnel

(facilities engineer, wildlife biologist, hydrologist, soil scientist, aquatic biologist, archeologist, landscape architect, recreation specialist, or botanist) would review the plans and recommend the proposal be approved as is or with necessary changes. Issuance of an amendment would follow this review and approval process.

Decision Framework

The decision to be made is whether or not to implement the proposed action, or another alternative in order to fulfill the purpose and need for the proposal. The proposed action would:

- Adopt the Revised Recreations Residences Standards and Guidelines as stated.
- Convert cabin 14 from a recreation residence to a rental cabin.
- Approve the proposed Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan for the future orderly development of the camp with the associated expansion of the 44-acre permit area by 14 acres.

The decision on the recreation special use permits does not consider the termination of these permits or adding additional recreation residence permits on either District. The CNF RLRMP states “No new recreation residence tracts or areas are designated and existing recreation residences continue to be authorized” (USDA 2004a).

Public Involvement

Formal public involvement was initiated on December 19, 2007. Direct mailings were sent to approximately 113 interested and affected agencies, organizations, tribes, individuals, and recreation residence holders. The Cherokee National Forest 2008 Recreation Residence Standards and Guides were posted on the Cherokee National Forest web page. The proposal was listed in the Cherokee National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions from January 2007 thru January 2010.

A total of 21 responses to the scoping effort were received in the form of letters, emails, and phone comments. Seventeen of the responses included comments exclusively in relation to the Draft 2008 Recreation Residence Standards and Guides for recreation residences. Four of the responses included comments on the Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan and the Draft 2008 Recreation Residence Standards and Guides for recreation residences.

Issues

The Forest Service separated the issues into two groups: significant and non-significant issues. Significant issues were defined as those directly or indirectly caused by implementing the proposed action. Non-significant issues were identified as those: 1) outside the scope of the proposed action; 2) already decided by law, regulation, Forest Plan, or other higher level decision; 3) irrelevant to the decision to be made; or 4) conjectural and not supported by scientific or factual evidence. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations require this delineation in Sec. 1501.7, “...identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by prior environmental review (Sec. 1506.3)...” A list of non-significant issues and reasons regarding their categorization as non-significant may be found in the project file.

Significant issues were derived from the responses received from the public and by the ID Team. The issues carried forward and used to develop alternatives are the following:

1. Aesthetic and recreation value of water use improvements (i.e. boat docks, decks etc.)
 - Removal of existing water use improvements could limit the recreational opportunities of the permittees.
 - Visibility of water use improvements may limit the scenic quality from the Ocoee Scenic Byway.
2. Safety of permittees and recreational users of Parksville Lake
 - Removal of boathouses may decrease the safety of children, elderly, and handicapped guests of the permittees as they enter boats.
 - Lowering diving boards may increase risk to water skiers.
 - Exterior lighting limitations may create a safety hazard to the permittee at water use improvements and at recreation residence.

ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

This chapter describes and compares the alternatives considered for the Revised Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines and Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan. It includes a detailed description of the alternatives considered. This section also presents the alternatives in comparative form, sharply defining the differences between each alternative and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision maker and the public.

Alternatives

Alternative A - No Action

Recreation Residences

Design and Construction Standards for Summer Homes

Cherokee National Forest

September 13, 1991 (Amended 4/16/99)

All improvements shall be constructed by the permittee in accordance with plans and specifications to be furnished to the District Ranger in **Duplicate**. Approval must be in writing (See Provision III B. in the Special Use Permit) prior to construction. Sample plans are available upon request. Plans and the actual construction shall meet the following minimum requirements:

1. **Residence Structures:** One-story buildings are preferred. An improved attic in a gable-roofed structure is permissible.

A. If a residence has to be replaced or remodeled and is less than 1,200 square feet,

the new or improved structure can be designed for a 1,200 square feet maximum if the land base allows.

- B. Square footage is considered the land base. If a structure being replaced has a basement, the new structure likewise can have a basement. If a structure has to be replaced, debris from the old structure has to be disposed of within 60 days of the date of damage or destruction. The new structure has to be built and ready for habitation within one year of destruction or damage.
- C. Enlargements will be approved in situations where a residence has to be modified to correct a health or safety problem or to allow for a barrier free access for disabled persons. Residence larger than 1,200 square feet may be rebuilt according to the existing square footage.
- D. It is allowable to remodel the interior of a residence, once the Forest Service has approved plans. The exterior can be modified if there are structurally unsafe conditions, again subject to plan approval.
- E. No residence structure shall be less than 400 square feet (excluding porches).

II. Construction Standards:

- A. Foundations: Shall be low stone masonry, concrete, brick, concrete or cinder block wall or piers, on suitable reinforced concrete footings. Foundations must blend with the landscape in its natural finish, or be painted an appropriate blending color such as soft shades of gray, brown, or green.
- B. Framing: Standard construction conforming to applicable state or local requirements.

Design/Construction , September 13, 1991 (Amended 4/16/99)

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- C. Walls: Shall be structurally sound and esthetically compatible with surrounding forest environment.

Tar paper, rolled roofing paper, imitation stone, brick or shingle composition siding will not be permitted.

Select vinyl wood grain siding may be used on approval. (4/16/99 amendment)

- D. Roofs: Gable and ridge or hip with not less than 3:12 or more than 9:12 pitch, metal or shingle roofs.

Cedar, redwood or cypress sawn shingles treated for fire resistance; composition shingles in soft shades of gray, brown, or green over solid sheathing; factory prefinished metal in soft shades of gray, brown or green.

- E. Colors: All exterior paints or stains shall be compatible with surrounding forest environment such as soft shades of gray, brown or green. Natural finishes are permissible if they blend with the natural landscape.
- F. Flues: Shall be structurally sound and in accordance with Southern Building Codes or National Fire Protection Association Codes. Flues must have spark proof hood.
- G. Toilet:
1. Outside - sanitary, fly-proof type in accordance with State sanitary laws. Can be of simple frame construction.
 2. Interior plumbing should be in accordance with the Southern Plumbing Code. Sub-surface wastewater disposal systems shall comply with Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 53-2044 and shall be approved by the local county health department.
- H. Electric Wiring: Materials and equipment shall be Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved and installation shall be in accordance with the National Electric Code.
- I. Garbage Disposal: No solid waste shall be disposed of on National Forest land including permitted land. Garbage shall be stored in covered water tight containers and removed from National Forest land a minimum of once every seven (7) days. Commercial garbage-type containers are not allowed.
- J. Gates: Gates are permissible for driveways, but have to be approved for color and design. All gates must have standard object markers and/or reflectors as required by the District Ranger. Cables and chains are not allowed. **Yellow Type II and Type III red and white striped reflective object markers are required. Type II are required on the support post and Type III on the swinging gate structure. (4/16/99 amendment)**

Design/Construction, September 13, 1991 (Amended 4/16/99)

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- K. Fences: Fences are not allowed.
- L. TV/Satellite Dishes: 18" dish allowed following approval.
- M. Storage Buildings and Pumphouses: Allowed up to 100 square feet in size for a storage building and/or a pumphouse. Plans have to be approved. No other buildings separate from the main structure are allowed.

- N. Garages: Garages will not be permitted.
- O. Doghouses: Doghouses or similar pet structures will not be permitted.
- P. Signing: The District Ranger will approve/disapprove any signing.
- Q. Decks attached to Residence: A residence not having a deck is allowed a deck, not to exceed **500 square foot**. Decks associated with the residence must be attached (share a structural member). A combined deck and patio cannot exceed **500 square foot**. **Replacements greater than 500 square foot may be replaced to their existing size.** (Amended 4/16/99)
- New porches greater than 100 square feet (individually) will be counted toward the 500 square foot maximum. Only the square feet over 100 sq.ft. will be considered as apart of the 500 sq. ft. maximum. (Amended 4/16/99)*
- No new decks separate from the residence will be permitted.
- R. Retaining Walls: Wooden retaining walls have to be CCA (salt) or penta treated. For rock walls, soft gray rip-rap is permissible. Retaining designs have to be approved by TVA before submittal to the District Ranger.
- S. Boat Houses/Shoreline Docks: New boat houses (not already existing) will not be allowed and enlargements will not be permitted. **Lake shore docks/deck structures cannot exceed 400 square feet combined.** (Amended 4/16/99)
- T. Replacement Designs: **When submitting a request to TVA, you should forward a copy to the Forest Service. approval is required for both new structures and replacements.** (Amended 4/16/99)
- U. Wooden Jet Ski Ramps: Are not allowed on shoreline nor on the dock structure. Mechanical jet ski lifts are allowed following approval.
- V. Footpath Lights: Should be installed by a licensed electrician **if electrical wiring is required.** (Amended 4/16/99).

Cabin 14 would remain a private recreation residence and be administered the same as the other 68 recreation residences.

Camp Cherokee

The proposed new Master Site Plan would be denied. Camp Cherokee would continue to be managed using the existing facilities and implementing the approved 2002 five year Site Development Plan (USDA 2003).

The 2002 five year plan was developed because the existing camp facilities were in need of repair due to age and use, and to enable them to meet the predicted demand and needs of their future clientele. This document authorized the following improvements:

1. Replacement of two boat docks. One at Camp Cherokee and the other near Mac Point on U.S. 64.
2. The construction of an administrative building west of the caretaker's house.
3. The construction of a new lodge and boat dock on the northern portion of the camp.
4. The construction of a climbing tower/ropes course, and
5. The leveling and expansion of the soccer field.
6. Related improvements such as roads, trails, parking, signage, gates, utility infrastructure, and shoreline improvements.

The five year Site Development Plan also listed the following improvements which have already been accomplished 1)develop well for a water source –2) Construct a new caretaker cabin and 3)Replace the “ski” dock.

Alternative B (Proposed Action)

Recreation Residences

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Standard 1: Building Improvements

1.1 – Buildings Allowed: The Holder is limited to one residence, one storage building, and one pump house on the Recreation Residence lot.

1.2 – Location of Buildings: No buildings will be allowed to be constructed in the lake zone.

- 1.2.1: No building will be allowed to be constructed adjacent to the lake zone when fire protection, access, or utility needs would require modification of the lake zone vegetation except in the following situation:
 - Where the disturbance and impact is short term (*An example of this is where there may be a need for equipment to cross or use a portion of the lake zone area during construction. This would be approved if the disturbance was short term such as limited to the time of construction and the impact was short term such as where the vegetation was expected to recover quickly*).
 - When the disturbance would be a pathway connecting the home to docks and outdoor living improvements in the lake zone.

1.3 – Residence Specifications: The recreation residence is limited to one story above ground construction, with a maximum footprint of 2100 square feet and a maximum height above foundation of 28 feet.

- 1.3.1: The footprint includes decks attached to the house. At the holder discretion, the footprint may include patios and other ‘outdoor living improvements’ connected to the house (see Standard 2 for discussion of Outdoor Living Improvements).

- 1.3.2: Maximum roof height above ground is 28 feet, measured from the top of the foundation with a pitch at or between 3:12 to 9:12. The roof must be of gable and ridge or hip construction with fire resistant shingles; no metal roofs allowed. Attics may be developed into living space, but windows will be limited to walls (dormer windows not allowed).
- 1.3.3: Top of the foundation will be within two feet of ground level along one side of the building. Foundation may be stone masonry, concrete, brick, concrete or cinder block wall or piers, on suitable reinforced concrete footings. Basements may be constructed into living or storage space. Foundations must blend with the landscape in its natural finish, or be painted an appropriate blending color such as soft shades of gray, brown, or green.
- 1.3.4: Exterior colors and materials – the Forest Service will maintain a list of pre-approved colors and materials.
- 1.3.5: Changes to structures may be subject to review by archaeologists prior to approval. See the Forest Service and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Memorandum of Agreement(MOA) Stipulation

1.4 – Storage Building Specifications: Each recreation residence will be allowed one storage building with a maximum footprint of 100 square feet with a maximum total height of 12 feet.

- 1.4.1: Exterior colors and materials – the Forest Service will maintain a list of pre-approved colors and materials.

1.5 – Pump House Specifications: Each recreation residence will be allowed one pump house with a maximum footprint of 25 sq. ft. and a height no more than 5 feet.

- 1.5.1: Exterior colors and materials – the Forest Service will maintain a list of pre-approved colors and materials.

1.6 – Building Grandfather Provisions:

- 1.6.1: All existing buildings (structures with a roof) that are in addition to the residence, pump house, and/or storage shed that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless scheduled for removal in Standard 1.7. Grandfathered buildings include, but are not limited to garages, gazebos, outhouses/toilet, patio covers, bunkhouses, or parking covers. The Holder will be allowed to operate, maintain, and repair but not rehabilitate, replace, alter, or expand these buildings. Outhouses must be removed and the site restored once a septic system is installed.
- 1.6.2: Holders with residences, pump houses, and/or storage sheds that exceed the building specifications will be allowed to operate, maintain, and repair but not rehabilitate, replace, alter, or expand these structures unless complying with the residence, pump house, and/or storage shed specifications. An exemption may be granted in cases affecting safety of health (*An example would be where a house plus deck has a footprint of 2200 sq. ft. and the permittee wishes to change the dimensions of the deck from 10' by 20' to 10' by 12'. The request would not be granted even though the deck is getting smaller. The reason is the*

structure would still not meet the standard of 2100 sq. ft. If the proposal was to build the deck at 10' by 10', it would be approved because the change would make the footprint 2100 sq. ft., bringing the structure into compliance with the standard. An example of an exemption is where a request was made to change wiring from a fuse system to a breaker system for safety reasons. This would only be granted if the same number of outlets, lights, etc... were proposed as was in the structure with the fuse system).

1.7 – Buildings Scheduled for Removal: The following improvements must be removed or converted to improvements that meet the standards and guidelines by the end of the permit term (December 31, 2028).

- 1.7.1: Boathouses – Boathouses are roofed structures and therefore are buildings. Buildings are not allowed in the lake zone and these particular structures are not grandfathered. This removal applies to Cabins 10, 16, 19, 22, 23, and 30.
- 1.7.2: Roofed Lake Zone Deck – Roofed decks in the lake zone are buildings. Buildings are not allowed in the lake zone and these particular structures are not grandfathered. This removal applies to Cabin 35.
- 1.7.3: Second Story Decks – Decks with two stories are considered buildings as the second story serves as a roof for the first story. Buildings are not allowed in the lake zone and these particular structures are not grandfathered. This removal applies to Cabin 27.

Standard 2: Outdoor Living Improvements

2.1 – Outdoor Living Improvements Allowed: The Holder is allowed up to 250 sq. ft. of outdoor living improvements on the lot. The Holder is also allowed up to 250 sq. ft. of outdoor living space in the lake zone in addition to the 250 sq. ft. allowed on the lot. Within these spaces, the holder can develop new and/or add to existing improvements. Improvements allowed in outdoor living spaces include, but are not necessarily limited to: patios, lake zone decks, fire rings, BBQ's, and picnic areas.

2.2 – Location of Outdoor Living Improvements :

- 2.2.1: Lot Outdoor Living Improvements – The 250 square feet can be allocated in a single area (*such as a 25 foot by 10 foot patio*), or in multiple areas (*such as a 10 foot by 10 foot patio, a 14 foot by 10 foot BBQ, and a 2 foot by 5 foot bench*). The area includes any constructed and/or vegetative improvements that facilitate outdoor living (*A 4 foot diameter fire ring would count as both the size of the fire ring and the area around it cleared to facilitate use. See also 'Standard 4: Vegetative Improvements'*).
- 2.2.1: Lake Zone Outdoor Living Improvements – The 250 sq. ft. must be allocated in a single area and must be no wider than 30 feet on the side facing the lake.

2.3 – Outdoor Living Improvements Specifications

- 2.3.1: Decks – Decks are only allowed if connected to the residence or located in the lake zone. Decks connected to the residence are considered part of the residence and not outdoor

- living improvements (see Standard 1.2.1). Decks that are not connected to the residence and not in the lake zone are not allowed.
- 2.3.2: Lake Zone Decks – Lake zone decks are allowed under the following conditions:
 - One edge rests at ground level and is attached to dry land. Decks may extend over water from the land.
 - Decks located entirely on land will be calculated in the 250 sq. ft. of allowable outdoor living space.
 - Decks extending over water from the land can be up to 250 sq. ft. and no wider than 30 ft. on the side facing the lake (see Standard 2.2.1). These decks will be calculated in the 1008 sq. ft. of allowable water use improvements (See also Standard 3.3.3) and in the 250 sq. ft. of allowable outdoor living improvements (See also Standard 2.2.1). *(Example: If a Holder has a 250 sq. ft. deck that extends over the water from the land and said deck is 30 ft. wide on the side facing the lake, then the holder can develop up to 758 sq. ft. of additional water use improvements within the 1008 sq. ft. water use improvement rectangle. $1008 \text{ sq. ft.} - 250 \text{ sq. ft.} = 758 \text{ sq. ft.}$ However, the Holder will not be allowed to develop any more outdoor living improvements in the lake zone since the 250 sq. ft. allocation is used up by the deck. In this example, if the Holder had only a 200 sq. ft. deck, they still would not be able to develop an additional 50 sq. ft. of outdoor living improvements elsewhere in the lake zone because the outdoor living improvements must be allocated in a single location, see Standard 2.2.1.)*
 - Railings or other permanent attachments do not exceed 48 inches in height above the top of the decking.
 - Stairs and railings are kept to the minimum length practical
 - 2.3.3: Patios – Patios and other outdoor living improvements connected to the residence may be counted either as part of the house footprint (when the house footprint is not used up by the house and attached deck), or counted as part of the outdoor living space allocation. *(An example of this is where a house and deck have a footprint of 1800 sq. ft. and a 250 sq. ft. patio also is attached to the house. The Holder could count the patio as part of the house footprint and build a patio up to 250 sq. ft. somewhere else on the lot, or count the patio as outdoor living improvements and increase the deck and house an additional 300 sq. ft. In another example the Holder with a 2100 sq. ft. deck and house combination would not be allowed to count the deck as outdoor living improvements and increase the size of the house because decks must be attached to the house and counted as part of its footprint).*

2.4 – Outdoor Living Improvements Grandfather Provisions: All existing outdoor living improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless such improvements are also considered building improvements and/or water use improvements that are scheduled for removal in Standards 1.7 or Standard 3.5. Grandfathered outdoor living improvements must be designed to meet the standards and guidelines when the holder proposes

rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of improvements. Existing outdoor living improvements that are not listed on the permit will be reviewed and addressed on a case by case basis.

Standard 3: Water Use Improvements

3.1 – Water Use Improvements Allowed: Holders are allowed to develop new and/or add to existing water use improvements such as docks, lake zone decks, jet ski ramps, fishing piers, etc.

3.2 – Location of Water Use Improvements: Water Use Improvements must be located in a single area. This location is restricted to the following size:

- 3.2.1: The square footage of a rectangle drawn to enclose all the water use improvements must be equal or less than 1008 sq. ft. (i.e. roughly a 31 ft. by 31 ft. square, 20 ft. by 50 ft. rectangle, etc.).

3.3 – Water Use Improvements Specifications:

- 3.3.1: Docks –Docks are purposed for ingress and egress from a watercraft and are not considered outdoor living improvements.
- 3.3.2: Gangways – The water use improvements must use a common gangway to connect to the land, deck, or other improvement on the land and that gangway is the minimum length necessary to facilitate use of the dock.
 - Gangways are subtracted from the rectangle square footage if the gangway connects the land with a dock. Gangways are not subtracted from the rectangle square footage if the gangway connects an improvement on the land (such as lake zone deck) with a dock.
- 3.3.3: Lake Zone Decks – Lake zone decks extending out over the water with one edge resting on the ground are allowed and are considered water use improvements and outdoor living improvements (See also Standard 2.3.2). In addition, holders may develop new and or add to existing such decks provided they are located within the 1008 sq. ft. of allowable water use improvements and no wider than 30 ft. on the side facing the lake and comply with the rest of Standard 3.
 - No new decks that are over the surface of the water, that are not connected to land on one edge (free standing decks out in the water) will be allowed.
 - Cabins 43, 44, 45, and 46 have available an exception to the limits on developing free standing decks out in the water. This exception is due to the close proximity of Card Spur Road to the lake shore. This limits or makes nonexistent their chance for 250 square feet of outdoor living space in the lake zone. They have one of two options. These cabins either get 250 square feet of lake zone deck which is entirely or partially on, in, and/or over the water (i.e. free standing decks or decks connected to the land) or 250 square feet of outdoor living improvements in the lake zone that is entirely located on land, but not both.

- 3.3.4: Height Restrictions - No improvement can exceed 40 inches height above summer pool except gangways or railings needed for safety. This includes diving boards, slides, and other constructed features and/or overhead components (i.e. no roofs, second story decks, etc. are allowed)

3.4 – Water Use Improvements Grandfather Provisions: All existing water use improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless such improvements are also considered building improvements and/or water use improvements that are scheduled for removal in Standards 1.7, or Standard 3.5, or stipulated for removal as a condition of approval in Standard 3.4.1. Grandfathered water use improvements must be designed to meet the standards and guidelines when the holder proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of improvements. *(An example is if a holder has a deck, gangway, and dock and the holder proposes a smaller dock. The rectangle is currently 2000 sq. ft. and the smaller dock would bring the rectangle to 1300 sq. ft. Although the dock is getting smaller, additional modifications to the arrangement or size of water use improvements would be required as a stipulation of approval in order to be within the allowed 1008 sq. ft. rectangle.)* Existing water use improvements that are not listed on the permit will be reviewed and addressed on a case by case basis.

- 3.4.1: Existing free standing decks in the water are grandfathered and will be allowed to be repaired and maintained only with no major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion. If the holder has a grandfathered free standing deck in the water and proposes rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of any water use improvement(s), removal of the free standing deck would be a condition of approval. *(An example would be where a holder with a free standing deck proposes enlarging their dock and the holder is in compliance with all other aspects of Standard 3. The authorized officer would approve the larger dock as long as the holder agrees to remove the free standing deck prior to enlarging the dock.)*

3.5 – Water Use Improvements Scheduled for Removal: The following improvements must be removed or converted to improvements that meet the standards and guidelines by the end of the permit term (December 31, 2028).

- 3.5.1: Water use improvements or components thereof which are higher than a standard safety railing must be removed. This does not apply to personal property, only improvements and/or components of a permanent nature, if such improvements exist.
- 3.5.2: Diving Boards and Water Slides – Diving boards and water slides that extend over 40 inches above the water at summer pool level. This removal applies to Cabins 16, 21, 23, 27, and 55. Diving boards and water slides are allowed as long as they do not extend over 40 inches above the water at summer pool level.

Standard 4: Vegetative Improvements

4.1 – Vegetation Modification: No modification of vegetation, on or off the lot, is allowed except under the following circumstances:

- 4.1.1: Vegetation modification to reduce the risk of wildfire damaging structures is allowed. An on-site evaluation by the Forest Service is required to determine what modification would be allowed. Maintenance of the fire protection zone is allowed, but only if listed in the Maintenance Plan and approved by the Forest Service. *(Generally this type of modification includes trimming back of brush and some thinning of trees within 30 feet of the house. Other issues may play a role in determining what work will be allowed such as needing vegetation left as a visual buffer, or for protecting water quality).*
- 4.1.2: Vegetation may be modified in areas where the permit specifies an approved use for the area, such as roads, parking lots, patios, walkways, outdoor living improvements, etc. These modifications must be to maintain or improve the use and are required to be listed in the Maintenance Plan and approved by the Forest Service *(Some examples include clearing along a driveway to improve line-of-sight distance, clearing vegetation in and adjacent to a patio or pathway, mowing a lawn on permits that allow lawns).*
- 4.1.3: Hazards to structures or people at the site may be removed or modified with prior approval from the Forest Service. Approval means the Forest Service marks the tree and issues a timber permit to the holder prior to cutting of the tree (see also Clause III.E. of the Term Special Use Permit for Recreation Residences). There are rare cases where prior approval is not necessary. The risk must be imminent and not avoidable in the time it would take to contact the Forest Service. The Forest Service must be contacted the first business day after the emergency work. *(An example of this is when a wind storm pushes a tree over so that it is leaning over a house on a weekend. The risk to the house is imminent and waiting until Monday to contact the Forest Service may result in damage to the house. If the tree was leaning over a path, or parking lot instead, prior permission is required because the risk is avoidable by not walking or parking under the tree).*
- 4.1.4: Recreation Residences without lake access may be allowed up to ½ acre of lawn, but not exceeding their lot size.
- 4.1.5: In situations where an existing residence is located in the lake zone, and reduction of risk to a residence from fire would occur in the vegetation management zone, a minimum of ½ the distance from the lake to the building will be retained in an unmanaged state. *(A house is located 20 feet from the lake. Fuels reduction such as thinning may be approved up to 10 feet away from the house).*
- 4.1.6: Holders may request approval of a view corridor up to 20 feet wide between the Recreation Residence and the lake.
 - Primarily focused on the management of brush, limbs, and small trees. Removal of trees larger than 2 inches diameter will only be approved in the initial designation of the corridor. A permit is required before they can be cut.
 - Once a corridor is established, a new corridor will not be approved until the old corridor has re-vegetated to a state that is similar to the surrounding forest *(An example of this is where a holder modifies the house and the living room window is now on the opposite end of the house. A request to create a new corridor for*

this new window will not be approved until the vegetation in the old corridor has grown up to match the surrounding forest.)

4.2 – Landscaping: Only plants native to the Recreation Residence site will be approved for use in landscaping or use on site where there is a risk that a non-native plant may establish itself in the surrounding forest.

- 4.2.1: Plants kept in the house are not likely to establish in the surrounding forest and therefore are allowed.
- 4.2.2: Plants kept in pots outdoors on patios or porches are generally allowed as long as it is not designated as invasive or as a noxious weed by either the state of Tennessee or by the Cherokee National Forest (Forest Botanist maintains current regional and state guidance on invasive exotic plants).
- 4.2.3: Straw and some types of mulch may contain seeds of noxious weeds and must be weed free for use on the Cherokee National Forest.
- 4.2.4: For the permits that allow lawns, non-native grasses may be approved for seeding/reseeding. Seed must be certified weed free for use on the Cherokee National Forest (*Some permits that do not have lake access are allowed lawns – Lake access permits do not allow lawns.*)
- 4.2.5: The holder may use, in accordance with manufacturer recommendations, over the counter herbicides for eradication of non-native or invasive plants on the lot (i.e. English ivy). Such efforts must be coordinated with the Forest Service.

4.3 – Vegetative Grandfather Provisions: Vegetative improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines are not grandfathered and must cease to be developed, maintained, or operated. The holder may develop, reconfigure, rearrange, or otherwise plan vegetative improvements to meet the standards and guidelines.

- 4.3.1: Only vegetative improvements meeting these standards and guidelines will be allowed to continue. All other natural vegetation will be allowed and encouraged to grow.

Standard 5: Ancillary Improvements

5.1 – Exterior Lighting: Exterior lighting is allowed on buildings, at outdoor living improvements, and along paths to facilitate safe use of the site after dark if the lighting is designed to minimize light pollution off site.

- 5.1.1: Exterior lights can only be used when the recreation residence is occupied. No automated security lights are allowed. Interior lighting that shines out from the residence is similarly restricted to use during occupancy.
- 5.1.2: Lighting located higher than 3 feet off the ground must point straight down and have a reflector that directs the light towards the ground and shielding that prevents light from

shining above horizontal. Additionally these lights may have a maximum light output of 1700 lumens (which is roughly equivalent of a 100 watt incandescent bulb).

- 5.1.3: Lights located higher than 3 feet from the ground are limited as follows;
 - 1 allowed at each entrance of the residence or storage building.
 - 1 allowed at the parking area.
 - 1 total allowed for outdoor living improvements or decks attached to the residence.
- 5.1.4: Lighting located at 3 feet or lower from the ground may have a maximum light output of 350 lumens (which is the roughly equivalent of a 35 watt incandescent bulb) and have shielding that prevents light from shining above horizontal..
- 5.1.5: Lights located 3 feet or lower from the ground (or floors) are limited as follows:
 - 1 allowed every 10 ft. along pathways.
 - 1 allowed for each 50 sq. ft. of outdoor living space.
 - 1 allowed on dock facilities.

5.2 – Gates: Gates are permissible for driveways, but have to be approved. This includes color, design, and standard object markers and reflectors.

5.3 – Roads, Driveways, and Parking Areas: Existing roads, driveways, and parking areas are allowed and may be operated, maintained, and repaired. Acceptable maintenance and repair include adding gravel, cleaning out ditches and culverts, grading, repairing potholes, and other minor activities in the spirit of the definition of maintenance. Written requests and approvals are required for construction, major rehabilitation, alterations, or expansions to roads, driveways, and parking areas. Such requests will be reviewed by the Forest Roads Engineer. Approval in such cases may require additional site specific environmental analysis and design, depending on the situation.

- 5.3.1: Holders are responsible for the operation, maintenance, and repair of driveways and parking areas serving their residences. Only specified National Forest System roads are the responsibility of the Forest Service.
- 5.3.2: Holders may request and be granted approval from the Forest Service to operate, maintain, and repair National Forest System roads. Such requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis and require a separate road permit to an individual or road association/organization.

5.4 – Paths, Walkways, and Trails:

- 5.4.1: Pathways connecting the residence to parking lots, utility sites, outdoor living improvements, and the lake zone are allowed.

- 5.4.2: Pathways do not count as part of the outdoor living improvement calculation. They may not exceed 4 feet cleared vegetation width, and 3 feet of tread width.

5.5 – Fences: Fences are not allowed and the public is allowed to walk through the permit area.

5.6 – Permanent storage boxes: will be allowed as long as the box is in the outdoor living space, is no taller than 40 inches, and is constructed of an approved natural material and color that is harmonious with the elements in the outdoor living space area.

5.7 – Water Lines, Power Lines, Septic Systems, and Other Utilities: Water lines, power lines, septic systems, and other utilities are acceptable improvements on the lot. In many cases, the Forest Service must approve such uses by amending the residence permit and the utility company permit (if applicable)

- 5.7.1: In general, water lines, power lines, cable lines, and other linear utilities should be buried rather than run aboveground. All utilities must be installed to meet applicable codes (see Standard 6.5).

5.7 – Ancillary Improvements Grandfather Provisions: All existing ancillary improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless such improvements are also considered building improvements and/or water use improvements that are scheduled for removal. Grandfathered ancillary improvements must be designed to meet the standards and guidelines when the holder proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of improvements. Existing ancillary improvements that are not listed on the permit will be reviewed and addressed on a case by case basis.

Standard 6: Operation, Maintenance, and General Uses

6.1 – Location of Uses and Improvements: All uses and improvements must be located within the lot boundaries with the following exceptions:

- Roads, parking lots, and paths connecting these sites to the lot when the Forest Service determines that it is in the best interest of the agency to locate them outside the lot. (*An example would be where constructing a parking space on the lot would not meet environmental standards but could be constructed near the lot and meet them*).
- Utilities where they are not practical or by necessity must be located off the lot. Utilities include electrical, water and sewer and may include satellite TV/internet at the discretion of the Forest Service. This standard includes provisions for an access trail or vegetation management when needed for maintenance. (*An example of this is where city water and sewer is available and the lines must leave the lot to connect or when a septic tank would not function properly on the lot, but could be located nearby and function correctly*).
- Where structures are located near the lot line and the Forest Service determines that some limited vegetation management would be allowed for protection of the structure (*An example would be fire protection*).

- In cases where improvements are at risk due to a condition outside the lot, the Forest Service may grant permission to reduce or remove the risk (*An example of this is where a tree may be ready to fall on the house, but is located outside the lot.*)

6.2 – Personal Property: Items associated with the recreational nature of the site may be used at the recreational residence and stored short term. No long term storage of personal effects is allowed on site except in enclosed structures listed on the permit.

- 6.2.1: Items associated with the recreational nature of the site include lawn chairs; canoes, power boats etc., but must be directly related to the use of the site as a recreation residence. (*An example of this may be where a camper trailer is left on site. This would be allowed when, on a family reunion weekend, the camper would be used to house extra guests. It would not be allowed when the trailer is there just to free up parking space at the Holders home. Additionally, the trailer could only be on site during the period or season of use, which, in this example would be the weekend of the family reunion and removed the trailer after that weekend.*)
- 6.2.2: Long term is defined as periods of absence from the site of more than one month or items whose use is seasonal in nature and kept on site outside the season of normal use. (*An example of this is power boats, Jet Ski, etc may be kept at the residence during the months that the lake is at summer pool, but must be removed from the site for the winter months. If the owners of the residence expected not to return in the next month, the boat would need to be removed from the site. Items such as lawn chairs, canoes, etc. would either need to be removed or stored in enclosed structures on the site.*)
- 6.2.3: Anything stored within the residence, a storage shed, or similar constructed enclosed building may be left on site year round. The enclosed building must be structures approved on the permit or grandfathered. (*An enclosed building is one with walls and a roof, and is secured with a door. Storage is allowed under porches when space is enclosed with walls or lattice such that the stored items are hidden from view. Temporary storage containers such as plastic storage bins or boxes are not approved for long term storage and must be themselves stored.*)
- 6.2.4: Any item that has the potential to be blown off site on a windy day must be removed or stored in an enclosed building prior to leaving the site regardless of the time of absence.
- 6.2.5: Temporary shade canopies with frames are allowed on improvements (such as ‘easy-ups’ or similar products), but must be taken down when not in use, particularly at the end of the summer season or during periods of extended non-use. Reasonable conservatism should be exercised in use of these products. Shade canopies may not have constructed frames or roofs or be intended for permanent use, because they would then be considered unauthorized improvements rather than movable personal property.

6.3 – Trash Storage and Disposal: Trash must be stored in animal resistant containers (especially for black bears) or kept inside the residence. Trash must be disposed of off the National Forest; dumping in Forest Service trash containers is not permitted and is a violation of law. Trash must be removed from National Forest land a minimum of once every seven days.

6.4 – Use and Storage of Hazardous Materials: Use and storage of hazardous materials is not permitted with the following exceptions:

- 6.4.1: Household products normally found at a supermarket or home improvement store are allowed if the quantity of an individual product does not exceed 1 gallon and they are stored in their original container. (*Some examples include bleach, herbicides, pesticides, etc...*).
- 6.4.2: Liquid fuels and oil may be stored on site if the total quantity is less than 25 gallons and it is stored in containers certified for the fuel. Propane may be stored on site in approved tanks/containers. No permanent fuel storage tanks/containers are allowed except for propane.

6.5 – Codes: All improvements must meet current International Codes developed by the International Code Council (ICC) and other national, state, and local codes (when applicable) for safe construction:

- 6.5.1: Electric Wiring - Materials and equipment shall be Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved and installation shall be in accordance with the National Electric Code.
- 6.5.2: Sub-surface wastewater disposal systems shall comply with Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 53-2044 and shall be approved by the local county health department.
- 6.5.3: All plans and revisions to plans for development, layout, construction, reconstruction, or alteration of improvements shall be prepared and stamped by a licensed professional engineer or architect registered in the state of Tennessee. Plans will then be presented for review by the Forest Service engineering staff prior to approval by the authorized officer and commencement of any work. (see also Clause II.B. of the Term Special Use Permit for Recreation Residences.)

6.6 – Signs: Signs are allowed under the following conditions:

- 6.6.1: Signs required:
 - One sign displaying the cabin number is to be prominently placed at the entrance of driveways, gates, or pathways providing the primary ingress/egress to the residence. Such signs or numbers shall be reflective, with 4-6 inch lettering.
 - One sign displaying the cabin number is to be prominently placed on each boat dock or lake zone deck. Such signs or numbers shall be reflective, with 6-10 inch lettering.
 - Signs controlling traffic or otherwise needed for the safety of vehicles or the public. Traffic control signs must meet Department of Transportation standards and be approved by the Forest Service.
- 6.6.2: The following types of signs are acceptable:
 - Forest Service provided signs indicating the area is under a special use permit or other Forest Service provided sign.

- Signs displaying the name of the cabin owner or a nickname for the cabin, provided that such nicknames are appropriate for public display and do not contain offensive or explicit words or language. All such signs shall be of a color, material, size, and lettering acceptable to and approved by the authorized officer.
- 6.6.3: The following types of signs are prohibited:
 - No trespassing signs
 - Private property signs or signs giving the impression that the permitted area is private property
 - Any sign nailed or screwed to a tree
 - Any other sign, unless approved in writing by the authorized officer

6.7 – Burning:

- 6.7.1: Burning of woody debris (brush piles) is allowed. The holder must follow rules and regulations established by the Tennessee Division of Forestry. The holder must obtain a burn permit from the Tennessee Division of Forestry and notify the Forest Service Ranger Station prior to burning.

6.7.2: No other outdoor burning is permitted, besides campfires in fire rings.

Cabin 14 would remain an individual recreation residence and be administered the same as the other 68 recreation residences.

Camp Cherokee

Approve the proposed new Master Site Plan (Appendix C). This alternative would add approximately 14 acres to the camp.

Alternative C

Recreation Residences

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Standard 1: Building Improvements

1.1 – Buildings Allowed: The Holder is limited to one residence, one storage building, and one pump house on the Recreation Residence lot.

1.2 – Location of Buildings: No buildings will be allowed to be constructed in the lake zone.

- 1.2.1: No building will be allowed to be constructed adjacent to the lake zone when fire protection, access, or utility needs would require modification of the lake zone vegetation except in the following situation:
 - Where the disturbance and impact is short term (*An example of this is where there may be a need for equipment to cross or use a portion of the lake zone area during construction. This would be approved if the disturbance was short term such as limited to the time of construction and the impact was short term such as where the vegetation was expected to recover quickly*).
 - When the disturbance would be a pathway connecting the home to docks and outdoor living improvements in the lake zone.

1.3 – Residence Specifications: The recreation residence is limited to one story above ground construction, with a maximum footprint of 2100 square feet and a maximum height above foundation of 28 feet.

- 1.3.1: The footprint includes decks attached to the house. At the holder discretion, the footprint may include patios and other ‘outdoor living improvements’ connected to the house (see Standard 2 for discussion of Outdoor Living Improvements).
- 1.3.2: Maximum roof height above ground is 28 feet, measured from the top of the foundation with a pitch at or between 3:12 to 9:12. The roof must be of gable and ridge or hip construction with fire resistant shingles; no metal roofs allowed. Attics may be developed into living space, but windows will be limited to walls (dormer windows not allowed).
- 1.3.3: Top of the foundation will be within two feet of ground level along one side of the building. Foundation may be stone masonry, concrete, brick, concrete or cinder block wall or piers, on suitable reinforced concrete footings. Basements may be constructed into living or storage space. Foundations must blend with the landscape in its natural finish, or be painted an appropriate blending color such as soft shades of gray, brown, or green.
- 1.3.4: Exterior colors and materials – the Forest Service will maintain a list pre-approved colors and materials.
- 1.3.5: Changes to structures may be subject to review by archaeologists prior to approval. See the Forest Service and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Memorandum of Agreement(MOA) Stipulation

1.4 – Storage Building Specifications: Each recreation residence will be allowed one storage building with a maximum footprint of 100 square feet with a maximum total height of 12 feet.

- 1.4.1: Exterior colors and materials – the Forest Service will maintain a list of pre-approved colors and materials.

1.5 – Pump House Specifications: Each recreation residence will be allowed one pump house with a maximum footprint of 25 sq. ft. and a height no more than 5 feet.

- 1.5.1: Exterior colors and materials – the Forest Service will maintain a list of pre-approved colors and materials.

1.6 – Building Grandfather Provisions:

- 1.6.1: All existing buildings (structures with a roof) in addition to the residence, pump house, and/or storage shed that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed. Grandfathered buildings include, but are not limited to garages, gazebos, outhouses/toilet, patio covers, bunkhouses, boathouses, roofed lake zone decks, second story decks, or parking covers. The Holder will be allowed to operate, maintain, and repair but not rehabilitate, replace, alter, or expand these structures unless scheduled for modification in Standard 1.7. Outhouses must be removed and the site restored once a septic system is installed.
- 1.6.2: Holders with residences, pump houses, and/or storage sheds that exceed the building specifications will be allowed to operate, maintain, and repair but not rehabilitate, replace, alter, or expand these structures unless complying with the residence, pump house, and/or storage shed specifications. An exemption may be granted in cases affecting safety of health (*An example would be where a house plus deck has a footprint of 2200 sq. ft. and the permittee wishes to change the dimensions of the deck from 10' by 20' to 10' by 12'. The request would not be granted even though the deck is getting smaller. The reason is the structure would still not meet the standard of 2100 sq. ft. If the proposal was to build the deck at 10' by 10', it would be approved because the change would make the footprint 2100 sq. ft., bringing the structure into compliance with the standard. An example of an exception is where a request was made to change wiring from a fuse system to a breaker system for safety reasons. This would only be granted if the same number of outlets, lights, etc... were proposed as was in the structure with the fuse system.*)

1.7 – Buildings Scheduled for Modification: The following improvements must be modified by the end of the permit term (December 31, 2028).

- 1.7.1: Boathouses Enclosed with Constructed Sides– Boathouses are roofed structures and therefore are buildings. Buildings are not allowed in the lake zone, but will be grandfathered with one exception: Boathouses must be modified to not be enclosed with constructed sides by December 31, 2028. This modification applies to Cabins 16, 19, 22, 23, and 30. Cabin 10 boathouse is not enclosed with constructed sides and therefore requires no modification.

Standard 2: Outdoor Living Improvements

2.1 – Outdoor Living Improvements Allowed: The Holder is allowed up to 250 sq. ft. of outdoor living improvements on the lot. The Holder is also allowed up to 250 sq. ft. of outdoor living improvements in the lake zone in addition to the 250 sq. ft. allowed on the lot. Within these spaces, the holder can develop new and/or add to existing improvements. Improvements allowed in outdoor living spaces include, but are not necessarily limited to: patios, lake zone decks, fire rings, BBQ's, and picnic areas.

2.3 – Location of Outdoor Living Improvements :

- 2.2.1: Lot Outdoor Living Improvements – The 250 square feet can be allocated in a single area (such as a 25 foot by 10 foot patio), or in multiple areas (such as a 10 foot by 10 foot patio, a 14 foot by 10 foot BBQ, and a 2 foot by 5 foot bench). The area includes any constructed and/or vegetative improvements that facilitate outdoor living (A 4 foot diameter fire ring would count as both the size of the fire ring and the area around it cleared to facilitate use. See also ‘Standard 4: Vegetative Improvements’).
- 2.2.1: Lake Zone Outdoor Living Improvements – The 250 sq. ft. must be allocated in a single area and must be no wider than 30’ on the side facing the lake.

2.3 – Outdoor Living Improvements Specifications

- 2.3.1: Decks – Decks are only allowed if connected to the residence or located in the lake zone. Decks connected to the residence are considered part of the residence and not outdoor living improvements (see Standard 1.2.1). Decks that are not connected to the residence and not in the lake zone are not allowed.
- 2.3.2: Lake Zone Decks – Lake zone decks are allowed under the following conditions:
 - One edge rests at ground level and is attached to dry land. Decks may extend over water from the land.
 - Decks located entirely on land will be calculated in the 250 sq. ft. of allowable outdoor living improvements.
 - Decks extending over water from the land can be up to 250 sq. ft. and no wider than 30 ft. on the side facing the lake (see Standard 2.2.1). These decks will be calculated in the 1008 sq. ft. of allowable water use improvements (See also Standard 3.3.3) and in the 250 sq. ft. of allowable outdoor living improvements (See also Standard 2.2.1). *(Example: If a Holder has a 250 sq. ft. deck that extends over the water from the land and said deck is 30 ft. wide on the side facing the lake, then the holder can develop up to 758 sq. ft. of additional water use improvements within the 1008 sq. ft. water use improvement rectangle. $1008 \text{ sq. ft.} - 250 \text{ sq. ft.} = 758 \text{ sq. ft.}$ However, the Holder will not be allowed to develop any more outdoor living improvements in the lake zone since the 250 sq. ft. allocation is used up by the deck. In this example, if the Holder had only a 200 sq. ft. deck, they still would not be able to develop an additional 50 sq. ft. of outdoor living improvements elsewhere in the lake zone because the outdoor living improvements must be allocated in a single location, see Standard 2.2.1.)*
 - Railings or other permanent attachments do not exceed 48 inches in height above the top of the decking.
 - Stairs and railings are kept to the minimum length practical
- 2.3.3: Patios – Patios and other outdoor living improvements connected to the residence may be counted either as part of the house footprint (when the house footprint is not used up by the house and attached deck), or counted as part of the outdoor living improvements allocation.

(An example of this is where a house and deck have a footprint of 1800 sq. ft and a 250 sq. ft. patio also is attached to the house. The Holder could count the patio as part of the house footprint and build a patio up to 250 sq. ft. somewhere else on the lot, or count the patio as outdoor living improvements and increase the deck and house an additional 300 sq. ft. In another example the Holder with a 2100 sq. ft. deck and house combination would not be allowed to count the deck as outdoor living improvements and increase the size of the house because decks must be attached to the house and counted as part of its footprint).

2.4 – Outdoor Living Improvements Grandfather Provisions: All existing outdoor living improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless such improvements are also considered building improvements and/or water use improvements that are scheduled for removal in Standards 1.7 or Standard 3.5. Grandfathered outdoor living improvements must be designed to meet the standards and guidelines when the holder proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of improvements. Existing outdoor living improvements that are not listed on the permit will be reviewed and addressed on a case by case basis.

Standard 3: Water Use Improvements

3.1 – Water Use Improvements Allowed: Holders are allowed to develop new and/or add to existing water use improvements such as docks, lake zone decks, jet ski ramps, fishing piers, etc.

3.2 – Location of Water Use Improvements: Water Use Improvements must be located in a single area. This location is restricted to the following size:

- 3.2.1: The square footage of a rectangle drawn to enclose all the water use improvements must be equal or less than 1008 sq. ft. (i.e. roughly a 31 ft. by 31 ft. square, 20 ft. by 50 ft. rectangle, etc.).

3.3 – Water Use Improvements Specifications:

- 3.3.1: Docks –Docks are purposed for ingress and egress from a watercraft and are not considered outdoor living improvements.
- 3.3.2: Gangways – The water use improvements must use a common gangway to connect to the land, deck, or other improvement on the land and that gangway is the minimum length necessary to facilitate use of the dock.
 - Gangways are subtracted from the rectangle square footage if the gangway connects the land with a dock. Gangways are not subtracted from the rectangle square footage if the gangway connects an improvement on the land (such as lake zone deck) with a dock.
- 3.3.3: Lake Zone Decks – Lake zone decks extending out over the water with one edge resting on the ground are allowed and are considered water use improvements and outdoor living improvements (See also Standard 2.3.2). In addition, holders may develop new and or add to existing such decks provided they are located within the 1008 sq. ft. of allowable water use improvements and comply with the rest of Standard 3.

- No new decks that are over the surface of the water, that are not connected to land on one edge (free standing decks out in the water) will be allowed.
- Cabins 43, 44, 45, and 46 have available an exception to the limits on free standing decks out in the water. This exception is due to the close proximity of Card Spur Road to the lake shore. This limits or makes nonexistent their chance for 250 square feet of outdoor living improvements in the lake zone. They have one of two options. These cabins either get 250 square feet of lake zone deck which is entirely or partially on, in, and/or over the water (i.e. free standing decks or decks connected to the land) or 250 square feet of outdoor living improvements in the lake zone that is entirely located on land, but not both.
- 3.3.4: Height Restrictions - No improvement can exceed 40 inches height above summer pool except gangways or railings needed for safety. This includes diving boards, slides, and other constructed features and/or overhead components (i.e. no roofs, second story decks, etc. are allowed)

3.4 – Water Use Improvements Grandfather Provisions: All existing water use improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless such improvements are also considered building improvements and/or water use improvements that are scheduled for removal in Standards 1.7 or stipulated for removal as a condition of approval in Standards 3.4.1 or 3.4.2. Grandfathered water use improvements must be designed to meet the standards and guidelines when the holder proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of improvements. *(An example is if a holder has a deck, gangway, and dock and the holder proposes a smaller dock. The rectangle is currently 2000 sq. ft. and the smaller dock would bring the rectangle to 1300 sq. ft. Although the dock is getting smaller, additional modifications to the arrangement or size of water use improvements would be required as a stipulation of approval in order to be within the allowed 1008 sq. ft. rectangle.)* Existing water use improvements that are not listed on the permit will be reviewed and addressed on a case by case basis.

- 3.4.1: Existing free standing decks in the water are grandfathered and will be allowed to be repaired and maintained only with no major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion. If the holder has a grandfathered free standing deck in the water and proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of any water use improvement(s), removal of the free standing deck would be a condition of approval. *(An example would be where a holder with a free standing deck proposes enlarging their dock and the holder is in compliance with all other aspects of Standard 3. The authorized officer would approve the larger dock as long as the holder agrees to remove the free standing deck prior to enlarging the dock.)*
- 3.4.2: Diving Boards and Water Slides – Diving boards and water slides that extend over 40 inches above the water at summer pool level are grandfathered. If the holder has a grandfathered diving board or water slide above 40 inches and proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of any water use improvement(s), removal of the diving board or water slide or modification to meet the 40 inch height requirement would be a condition of approval.

Standard 4: Vegetative Improvements

4.1 – Vegetation Modification: No modification of vegetation, on or off the lot, is allowed except under the following circumstances:

- 4.1.1: Vegetation modification to reduce the risk of wildfire damaging structures is allowed. An on-site evaluation by the Forest Service is required to determine what modification would be allowed. Maintenance of the fire protection zone is allowed, but only if listed in the Maintenance Plan and approved by the Forest Service. *(Generally this type of modification includes trimming back of brush and some thinning of trees within 30 feet of the house. Other issues may play a role in determining what work will be allowed such as needing vegetation left as a visual buffer, or for protecting water quality).*
- 4.1.2: Vegetation may be modified in areas where the permit specifies an approved use for the area, such as roads, parking lots, patios, walkways, outdoor living improvements, etc. These modifications must be to maintain or improve the use and are required to be listed in the Maintenance Plan and approved by the Forest Service *(Some examples include clearing along a driveway to improve line-of-sight distance, clearing vegetation in and adjacent to a patio or pathway, mowing a lawn on permits that allow lawns).*
- 4.1.3: Hazards to structures or people at the site may be removed or modified with prior approval from the Forest Service. Approval means the Forest Service marks the tree and issues a timber permit to the holder prior to cutting of the tree (see also Clause III.E. of the Term Special Use Permit for Recreation Residences). There are rare cases where prior approval is not necessary. The risk must be imminent and not avoidable in the time it would take to contact the Forest Service. The Forest Service must be contacted the first business day after the emergency work. *(An example of this is when a wind storm pushes a tree over so that it is leaning over a house on a weekend. The risk to the house is imminent and waiting until Monday to contact the Forest Service may result in damage to the house. If the tree was leaning over a path, or parking lot instead, prior permission is required because the risk is avoidable by not walking or parking under the tree).*
- 4.1.4: Recreation Residences without lake access may be allowed up to ½ acre of lawn, but not exceeding their lot size.
- 4.1.5: In situations where an existing residence is located in the lake zone, and reduction of risk to a residence from fire would occur in the vegetation management zone, a minimum of ½ the distance from the lake to the building will be retained in an unmanaged state. *(A house is located 20 feet from the lake. Fuels reduction such as thinning may be approved up to 10 feet away from the house).*
- 4.1.6: Holders may request approval of a view corridor up to 20 feet wide between the Recreation Residence and the lake.

- Primarily focused on the management of brush, limbs, and small trees. Removal of trees larger than 2 inches diameter will only be approved in the initial designation of the corridor. A permit is required before they can be cut.
- Once a corridor is established, a new corridor will not be approved until the old corridor has re-vegetated to a state that is similar to the surrounding forest (*An example of this is where a holder modifies the house and the living room window is now on the opposite end of the house. A request to create a new corridor for this new window will not be approved until the vegetation in the old corridor has grown up to match the surrounding forest.*).

4.2 – Landscaping: Only plants native to the Recreation Residence site will be approved for use in landscaping or use on site where there is a risk that a non-native plant may establish itself in the surrounding forest.

- 4.2.1: Plants kept in the house are not likely to establish in the surrounding forest and therefore are allowed.
- 4.2.2: Plants kept in pots outdoors on patios or porches are generally allowed as long as it is not designated as invasive or as a noxious weed by either the state of Tennessee or by the Cherokee National Forest (Forest Botanist maintains current regional and state guidance on invasive exotic plants).
- 4.2.3: Straw and some types of mulch may contain seeds of noxious weeds and must be certified weed free for use on the Cherokee National Forest.
- 4.2.4: For the permits that allow lawns, non-native grasses may be approved for seeding/reseeding. Seed must be certified weed free for use on the Cherokee National Forest (*Some permits that do not have lake access are allowed lawns – Lake access permits do not allow lawns.*)
- 4.2.5: The holder may use, in accordance with manufacturer recommendations, over the counter herbicides for eradication of non-native or invasive plants on the lot (i.e. English ivy). Such efforts must be coordinated with the Forest Service.

4.3 – Vegetative Grandfather Provisions: Vegetative improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines are not grandfathered and must cease to be developed, maintained, or operated. The holder may develop, reconfigure, rearrange, or otherwise plan vegetative improvements to meet the standards and guidelines.

- 4.3.1: Only vegetative improvements meeting these standards and guidelines will be allowed to continue. All other natural vegetation will be allowed and encouraged to grow.

Standard 5: Ancillary Improvements

5.1 – Exterior Lighting: Exterior lighting is allowed on buildings, at outdoor living improvements, and along paths to facilitate safe use of the site after dark if the lighting is designed to minimize light pollution off site.

- 5.1.1: Exterior lights can only be used when the recreation residence is occupied. No automated security lights are allowed. Interior lighting that shines out from the residence is similarly restricted to use during occupancy.
- 5.1.2: Lighting located higher than 3 feet off the ground must point straight down and have a reflector that directs the light towards the ground and shielding that prevents light from shining above horizontal. Additionally these lights may have a maximum light output of 1700 lumens (which is roughly equivalent of a 100 watt incandescent bulb).
- 5.1.3: Lights located higher than 3 feet from the ground are limited as follows;
 - 1 allowed at each entrance of the residence or storage building.
 - 1 allowed at the parking area.
 - 1 total allowed for outdoor living improvements or decks attached to the residence.
- 5.1.4: Lighting located at 3 feet or lower from the ground may have a maximum light output of 350 lumens (which is the roughly equivalent of a 35 watt incandescent bulb) and have shielding that prevents light from shining above horizontal..
- 5.1.5: Lights located 3 feet or lower from the ground (or floors) are limited as follows:
 - 1 allowed every 10 ft. along pathways.
 - 1 allowed for each 50 sq. ft. of outdoor living improvements.
 - 1 allowed on dock facilities.

5.2 – Gates: Gates are permissible for driveways, but have to be approved. This includes color, design, and standard object markers and reflectors.

5.3 – Roads, Driveways, and Parking Areas: Existing roads, driveways, and parking areas are allowed and may be operated, maintained, and repaired. Acceptable maintenance and repair include adding gravel, cleaning out ditches and culverts, grading, repairing potholes, and other minor activities in the spirit of the definition of maintenance. Written requests and approvals are required for construction, major rehabilitation, alterations, or expansions to roads, driveways, and parking areas. Such requests will be reviewed by the Forest Roads Engineer. Approval in such cases may require additional site specific environmental analysis and design, depending on the situation.

- 5.3.1: Holders are responsible for the operation, maintenance, and repair of driveways and parking areas serving their residences. Only specified National Forest System roads are the responsibility of the Forest Service.
- 5.3.2: Holders may request and be granted approval from the Forest Service to operate, maintain, and repair National Forest System roads. Such requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis and require a separate road permit to an individual or road association/organization.

5.4 – Paths, Walkways, and Trails:

- 5.4.1: Pathways connecting the residence to parking lots, utility sites, outdoor living improvements, and the lake zone are allowed.
- 5.4.2: Pathways do not count as part of the outdoor living improvement calculation. They may not exceed 4 feet cleared vegetation width, and 3 feet of tread width.

5.5– Fences: Fences are not allowed and the public is allowed to walk through the permit area.

5.6 – Permanent storage boxes: will be allowed as long as the box is in the outdoor living improvements, is no taller than 40 inches, and is constructed of an approved natural material and color that is harmonious with the elements in the outdoor living improvements area.

5.7 – Water Lines, Power Lines, Septic Systems, and Other Utilities: Water lines, power lines, septic systems, and other utilities are acceptable improvements on the lot. In many cases, the Forest Service must approve such uses by amending the residence permit and the utility company permit.

- 5.7.1: In general, water lines, power lines, cable lines, and other linear utilities should be buried rather than run aboveground. All utilities must be installed to meet applicable codes (see Standard 6.5).

5.8 – Ancillary Improvements Grandfather Provisions: All existing ancillary improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless such improvements are also considered building improvements and/or water use improvements that are scheduled for removal. Grandfathered ancillary improvements must be designed to meet the standards and guidelines when the holder proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of improvements. Existing ancillary improvements that are not listed on the permit will be reviewed and addressed on a case by case basis.

Standard 6: Operation, Maintenance, and General Uses

6.1 – Location of Uses and Improvements: All uses and improvements must be located within the lot boundaries with the following exceptions:

- Roads, parking lots, and paths connecting these sites to the lot when the Forest Service determines that it is in the best interest of the agency to locate them outside the lot. (An

example would be where constructing a parking space on the lot would not meet environmental standards but could be constructed near the lot and meet them).

- Utilities where they are not practical or by necessity must be located off the lot. Utilities include electrical, water and sewer and may include satellite TV/internet at the discretion of the Forest Service. This standard includes provisions for an access trail or vegetation management when needed for maintenance. *(An example of this is where city water and sewer is available and the lines must leave the lot to connect or when a septic tank would not function properly on the lot, but could be located nearby and function correctly).*
- Where structures are located near the lot line and the Forest Service determines that some limited vegetation management would be allowed for protection of the structure *(An example would be fire protection).*
- In cases where improvements are at risk due to a condition outside the lot, the Forest Service may grant permission to reduce or remove the risk *(An example of this is where a tree may be ready to fall on the house, but is located outside the lot).*

6.2 – Personal Property: Items associated with the recreational nature of the site may be used at the recreational residence and stored short term. No long term storage of personal effects is allowed on site except in enclosed structures listed on the permit.

- 6.2.1: Items associated with the recreational nature of the site include lawn chairs; canoes, power boats etc., but must be directly related to the use of the site as a recreation residence. *(An example of this may be where a camper trailer is left on site. This would be allowed when, on a family reunion weekend, the camper would be used to house extra guests. It would not be allowed when the trailer is there just to free up parking space at the Holders home. Additionally, the trailer could only be on site during the period or season of use, which, in this example would be the weekend of the family reunion and removed the trailer after that weekend.)*
- 6.2.2: Long term is defined as periods of absence from the site of more than one month or items whose use is seasonal in nature and kept on site outside the season of normal use. *(An example of this is power boats, Jet Ski, etc may be kept at the residence during the months that the lake is at summer pool, but must be removed from the site for the winter months. If the owners of the residence expected not to return in the next month, the boat would need to be removed from the site. Items such as lawn chairs, canoes, etc. would either need to be removed or stored in enclosed structures on the site).*
- 6.2.3: Anything stored within the residence, a storage shed, or similar constructed enclosed building may be left on site year round. The enclosed building must be structures approved on the permit and grandfathered. *(An enclosed building is one with walls and a roof, and is secured with a door. Storage is allowed under porches when space is enclosed with walls or lattice such that the stored items are hidden from view. Temporary storage containers such as plastic storage bins or boxes are not approved for long term storage and must be themselves stored.)*

- 6.2.4: Any item that has the potential to be blown off site on a windy day must be removed or stored in an enclosed building prior to leaving the site regardless of the time of absence.
- 6.2.5: Temporary shade canopies with frames are allowed on improvements (such as ‘easy-ups’ or similar products), but must be taken down when not in use, particularly at the end of the summer season or during periods of extended non-use. Reasonable conservatism should be exercised in use of these products. Shade canopies may not have constructed frames or roofs or be intended for permanent use, because they would then be considered unauthorized improvements rather than movable personal property.

6.3 – Trash Storage and Disposal: Trash must be stored in animal resistant containers (especially for black bears) or kept inside the residence. Trash must be disposed of off the National Forest; dumping in Forest Service trash containers is not permitted and is a violation of law. Trash must be removed from National Forest land a minimum of once every seven days.

6.4 – Use and Storage of Hazardous Materials: Use and storage of hazardous materials is not permitted with the following exceptions:

- 6.4.1: Household products normally found at a supermarket or home improvement store are allowed if the quantity of an individual product does not exceed 1 gallon and they are stored in their original container. (*Some examples include bleach, herbicides, pesticides, etc...*).
- 6.4.2: Liquid fuels and oil may be stored on site if the total quantity is less than 25 gallons and it is stored in containers certified for the fuel. Propane may be stored on site in approved tanks/containers. No permanent fuel storage tanks/containers are allowed except for propane.

6.5 – Codes: All improvements must meet current International Codes developed by the International Code Council (ICC) and other national, state, and local codes (when applicable) for safe construction:

- 6.5.1: Electric Wiring - Materials and equipment shall be Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved and installation shall be in accordance with the National Electric Code.
- 6.5.2: Sub-surface wastewater disposal systems shall comply with Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 53-2044 and shall be approved by the local county health department.
- 6.5.3: All plans and revisions to plans for development, layout, construction, reconstruction, or alteration of improvements shall be prepared and stamped by a licensed professional engineer or architect registered in the state of Tennessee. Plans will then be presented for review by the Forest Service engineering staff prior to approval by the authorized officer and commencement of any work. (see also Clause II.B. of the Term Special Use Permit for Recreation Residences.)

6.6 – Signs: Signs are allowed under the following conditions:

- 6.6.1: Signs required:

- One sign displaying the cabin number is to be prominently placed at the entrance of driveways, gates, or pathways providing the primary ingress/egress to the residence. Such signs or numbers shall be reflective, with 4-6 inch lettering.
- One sign displaying the cabin number is to be prominently placed on each boat dock or lake zone deck. Such signs or numbers shall be reflective, with 6-10 inch lettering.
- Signs controlling traffic or otherwise needed for the safety of vehicles or the public. Traffic control signs must meet Department of Transportation standards and be approved by the Forest Service.
- 6.6.2: The following types of signs are acceptable:
 - Forest Service provided signs indicating the area is under a special use permit or other Forest Service provided sign.
 - Signs displaying the name of the cabin owner or a nickname for the cabin, provided that such nicknames are appropriate for public display and do not contain offensive or explicit words or language. All such signs shall be of a color, material, size, and lettering acceptable to and approved by the authorized officer.
- 6.6.3: The following types of signs are prohibited:
 - No trespassing signs
 - Private property signs or signs giving the impression that the permitted area is private property
 - Any sign nailed or screwed to a tree
 - Any other sign, unless approved in writing by the authorized officer

6.7 – Burning:

- 6.7.1: Burning of woody debris (brush piles) is allowed. The holder must follow rules and regulations established by the Tennessee Division of Forestry. The holder must obtain a burn permit from the Tennessee Division of Forestry and notify the Forest Service Ranger Station prior to burning.
- 6.7.2: No other burning is permitted.

Cabin 14 would be converted from a recreation residence to a rental cabin owned and operated by Lake Ocoee Inn & Marina. The track this cabin is on, Lot 14, Block 18-A, and all the improvements would be added to Lake Ocoee Inn & Marina's special use permit by an amendment.

Camp Cherokee

Approve the proposed new Master Site Plan (Appendix C). This alternative would add approximately 14 acres to the camp.

Alternatives Not Considered in Detail _____

Alternative 2

The permits would be administered using the terms of the Term Special Use Permit for Recreation Residences (FS-2700-5a (02/07) -Appendix D), Forest Service Manual, Forest Service Handbook, and a variation of the proposed Cherokee National Forest 2009 Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines (Appendix B). This alternative generally applies the 2008 Recreation Residence Standards and Guides as they were transmitted to the public during scoping in 2007. The following standards that are displayed in Appendix B (May 2012 version) DO NOT apply to Alternative 2.

Standard 1 – Location of Improvements

- Gates are permissible for driveways, but have to be approved. This includes color, design with standard object markers and reflectors.

Standard 15 – Vegetation Modification in the Lake Zone

- *A 20' wide corridor may be approved to allow the Recreation Residence an improved view of the lake with the following restrictions;*
 - Must start at the Recreation Residence but does not have to travel through dock facilities or constructed living space in the lake zone.

Standard 18 – Exterior Lighting Limitations

- *Only lighting 1' or less off the ground or top of decking on decks will be allowed. Except for one directional light permitted on water use improvements up to 48 inches high, to be consistent with available products and provide opportunities to attach to post.*

Standard 19 – Docks and Other Water Use Improvements

- Lighting will be permitted as indicated under Standard 18.
- Existing decks extending out over the water with one edge resting on the ground will be grandfathered (at current location and footprint) as long as the foot print of any water use improvement does not change, but considered part of the allowed 800 square feet.
- Decks that are over the surface of the water, that are not connected to land on one edge and that are higher the 40" above the water will be grandfathered and considered part of the allowed 800 square feet. When the foot print of any water use improvement is changed, these decks will have to be modified to meet existing standards or removed as part of the approval of the proposed changes.
- Cabins 43, 44, 45, and 46 have available an exception to the limits on decks connected to the land or free standing decks out in the water. This exception is due to the

proximity of Card Spur Road to the lake shore. This limits or makes nonexistent their chance for 250 feet of constructed living space. They have one of two options. Option one allows them a deck out over the water which is either free standing or connected to the land, but they cannot have any constructed living space in the lake zone. Option two allows the 250 feet of constructed living space in the lake zone but no free standing or connected decks out in the water. Existing decks will be grandfathered in (at current location and footprint) as long as the foot print of any water use improvement does not change, but considered part of the allowed 800 square feet.

- Existing boat houses are grandfathered with the following modification. Within 10 years from the date of the issuance of the new permit the existing boat houses shall not be enclosed with constructed sides and no metal roofs will be allowed. Boat houses will be included with in 800 square feet rectangle allowed for docks and other water use improvements.
- All existing diving boards are grandfathered. New diving boards will require approval and must meet standard of not extending over 40” above the water at summer pool level.

Standard 20 – Existing Water Use Improvements to be removed

The following water use improvements must be removed within 10 years of the date of reissuance of the permit;

- Boat houses not in compliance with Standard 19.
- *Decks that are over the surface of the water, that are not connected to land on one edge and that are higher than 40” above water, will be removed once the foot print of any water use improvement is changed.*

The following standards would be IN ADDITION to those that are displayed in Appendix B (May 2012 version).

Standard 15 – Vegetation Modification in the Lake Zone

- *A 20’ wide corridor may be approved to allow the Recreation Residence an improved view of the lake with the following restrictions;*
 - Must start at the Recreation Residence and travel through dock facilities or constructed living space in the lake zone.

Standard 19 – Docks and Other Water Use Improvements

- Lighting will not be permitted on water use improvements.

Standard 20 – Existing Water Use Improvements to be removed

The following water use improvements must be removed within 10 years of the date of reissuance of the permit;

- Boat houses

- Diving Boards and Water slides that extend over 40” above the water at summer pool level.
- Decks that are over the surface of the water, that are not connected to land on one edge and that are higher than 40” above water.

This alternative does not meet the purpose and need. The alternative does not take into account the desired design features as brought forth through an iterative analysis process.

Alternative 3

The permits would be administered using the terms of the Term Special Use Permit for Recreation Residences (FS-2700-5a (02/07) -Appendix D), Forest Service Manual, Forest Service Handbook, and the proposed Cherokee National Forest 2009 Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines (Appendix B (May 2012 version)).

This alternative does not meet the purpose and need. The alternative does not take into account the desired design features as brought forth through an iterative analysis process.

Alternative 4

The permits would be administered using the terms of the Term Special Use Permit for Recreation Residences (FS-2700-5a (02/07) -Appendix D), Forest Service Manual, Forest Service Handbook, and a variation of the proposed Cherokee National Forest 2009 Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines (Appendix B (May 2012 version)). The following standards that are in displayed in Appendix B (May 2012 version) **DO NOT** apply to Alternative 4.

Standard 19 – Docks and Other Water Use Improvements

- Existing boat houses are grandfathered with the following modification. Within 10 years from the date of the issuance of the new permit the existing boat houses shall not be enclosed with constructed sides and no metal roofs will be allowed. Boat houses will be included with in 800 square feet rectangle allowed for docks and other water use improvements.
- All existing diving boards are grandfathered. New diving boards will require approval and must meet standard of not extending over 40” above the water at summer pool level.

Standard 20 – Existing Water Use Improvements to be removed

The following water use improvements must be removed within 10 years of the date of reissuance of the permit;

- Boat houses not in compliance with Standard 19.

The following standards would be **IN ADDITION** to those that are displayed in Appendix B (May 2012 version).

Standard 8 – Buildings Allowed on Site

- Outhouse/toilet must be removed and site restored once a septic system has been installed.

Standard 18 – Exterior Lighting Limitations

- All lighting along pathways and constructed living space may be directional light up to 3 ft. high above ground line or finished deck, to be consistent with available products.

Standard 20 – Existing Water Use Improvements to be removed

The following water use improvements must be removed within 10 years of the date of reissuance of the permit;

- Boat houses
- Diving Boards and Water slides that extend over 40” above the water at summer pool level.
- This alternative does not meet the purpose and need. The alternative does not take into account the desired design features as brought forth through an iterative analysis process.

This alternative does not meet the purpose and need. The alternative does not take into account the desired design features as brought forth through an iterative analysis process.

Alternative 5

The 2008 Standards and Guides as transmitted during scoping were not considered in detail. Alternative 2 is essentially the 2008 Standards and Guides with the lone exception being Standard 8. The 2008 Standards and Guides did not include the requirement to comply with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Forest Service and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office. In order to be in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act this standard must be included. Because the 2008 Standards and Guides transmitted during scoping did not include this standard they were not considered in detail.

Mitigation Common to All Alternatives _____

The RLRMP contains Forest Wide, Management Prescription specific, and Management Area specific standards that mitigate adverse effects to all resources. These standards are part of all action alternatives.

Any proposals submitted by the permittees would be authorized by an amendment to the special use permit. Before a permit amendment would be issued the proposal would be reviewed for any site specific mitigations that could be needed in addition to those listed in the approved Revised Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines.

During review, potential bat roost trees would be identified and efforts made to prevent removing these trees between 15 April and 15 August.

Regarding bald eagles and the bald eagle nest on Parksville Lake

- Bald Eagle Management Guidelines and Conservation Measures outlined by the USFWS (USDI 2009b): 1) Maintain a buffer of at least 330 feet (100 meters) between your activities and the nest (including active and alternate nests), unless a similar activity is closer than 330 feet, then you may maintain a distance buffer as close to the nest as the existing tolerated activity. 2) Restrict all clearing, external construction, and landscaping activities within 660 feet of the nest to **outside the nesting season** (i.e., outside the nesting season is from August through mid-January in the Midwest). 3) Maintain established landscape buffers that screen the activity from the nest.

Comparison of Alternatives _____

This section provides a comparison of the alternatives. Table 1 discloses the No Action activities. Table 2 displays the comparison between Alternative B and C. Table 3 provides a summary of the effects where different levels of effects can be distinguished qualitatively among alternatives.

Table 1. Alternative A No Action Activities

| | Alternative A No Action |
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| Standards and Guidelines | The permits would be administered using the terms of the Term Special Use Permit for Recreation Residences [FS-2700-5a (02/07)], Forest Service Manual and Handbook, the Cherokee National Forest Standards for Summer Homes-September 1991 (amended April 1999) and the Operation and Maintenance Plan-September 1994 (amended May 2003). |
| Cabin 14 | Cabin 14 would remain a recreation residence. |
| Camp Cherokee | The proposed Master Site Plan would be denied. Camp Cherokee would continue to be managed using the existing facilities and implementing the approved 2002 Five Year Site Development Plan. |
| Standard 1- Gates | Gates are permissible for driveways, but have to be approved for color and design. All gates must have standard object markers and/or reflectors-Yellow Type II and Type III red and white striped reflective object markers are required. Type II is required on the support post and Type III on the swinging gate structure. Cables and chains are not allowed. |
| Standard 8- Outhouse/ Toilet | Sanitary, fly-proof type in accordance with state sanitary laws. Can be of simple frame construction. |
| Standard 8a- SHPO Requirements | FS and Tennessee SHPO Programmatic Agreement Evaluate existing recreation residence. Categorically excluded if action will result in No Effect to Heritage Resources as defined in 36 CFR 800.5. |
| Standard 15- Vegetation | The holder is permitted to maintain existing vegetation on the permit area. Pruning vegetation that is encroaching on walkways, the prism of the roofline, driveways and power lines; mowing and trimming established lawns; fertilizing; using over the counter herbicides for unwanted vegetation is permitted without specific approvals. Removal of trees or other vegetation required authorization by a Forest officer. A Forest officer permits felling of hazardous trees, but only after authorization. |
| Standard 18- Exterior Lighting | Footpath lights should be installed by a licensed electrician if electrical wiring is required. |
| Standard 19- Docks and Other Water Use Improvements | No new decks separate from the residence will be permitted. <u>Boat Houses/Shoreline Docks:</u> New boat houses (not already existing) will not be allowed and enlargements will not be permitted. Lake shore docks/deck structures cannot exceed 400 square feet combined. Wooden Jet Ski Ramps are not allowed on shoreline or on the dock structure. Mechanical jet ski lifts are allowed following approval. |
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Table 2. Alternative B and C Comparisons

| | Alternative B (Proposed Action) | Alternative C |
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| <p><u>Standard 1:</u> <u>Building</u> <u>Improvement</u> <u>s</u></p> | <p>1.1 – Buildings Allowed: The Holder is limited to one residence, one storage building, and one pump house on the Recreation Residence lot.</p> | <p>1.1 – Buildings Allowed: The Holder is limited to one residence, one storage building, and one pump house on the Recreation Residence lot.</p> |
| | <p>1.2 – Location of Buildings: No buildings will be allowed to be constructed in the lake zone.</p> <p>1.2.1: No building will be allowed to be constructed adjacent to the lake zone when fire protection, access, or utility needs would require modification of the lake zone vegetation except in the following situation:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Where the disturbance and impact is short term (An example of this is where there may be a need for equipment to cross or use a portion of the lake zone area during construction. This would be approved if the disturbance was short term such as limited to the time of construction and the impact was short term such as where the vegetation was expected to recover quickly).</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">When the disturbance would be a pathway connecting the home to docks and outdoor living improvements in the lake zone.</p> | <p>1.2 – Location of Buildings: No buildings will be allowed to be constructed in the lake zone.</p> <p>1.2.1: No building will be allowed to be constructed adjacent to the lake zone when fire protection, access, or utility needs would require modification of the lake zone vegetation except in the following situation:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Where the disturbance and impact is short term (An example of this is where there may be a need for equipment to cross or use a portion of the lake zone area during construction. This would be approved if the disturbance was short term such as limited to the time of construction and the impact was short term such as where the vegetation was expected to recover quickly).</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">When the disturbance would be a pathway connecting the home to docks and outdoor living improvements in the lake zone.</p> |

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| <p>1.3 – Residence Specifications: The recreation residence is limited to one story above ground construction, with a maximum footprint of 2100 square feet and a maximum height above foundation of 28 feet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.3.1: The footprint includes decks attached to the house. At the holder discretion, the footprint may include patios and other ‘outdoor living improvements’ connected to the house (see Standard 2 for discussion of Outdoor Living Improvements). • 1.3.2: Maximum roof height above ground is 28 feet, measured from the top of the foundation with a pitch at or between 3:12 to 9:12. The roof must be of gable and ridge or hip construction with fire resistant shingles; no metal roofs allowed. Attics may be developed into living space, but windows will be limited to walls (dormer windows not allowed). • 1.3.3: Top of the foundation will be within two feet of ground level along one side of the building. Foundation may be stone masonry, concrete, brick, concrete or cinder block wall or piers, on suitable reinforced concrete footings. Basements may be constructed into living or storage space. Foundations must blend with the landscape in its natural finish, or be painted an appropriate blending color such as soft shades of gray, brown, or green. • 1.3.4: Exterior colors and materials – the | <p>1.3 – Residence Specifications: The recreation residence is limited to one story above ground construction, with a maximum footprint of 2100 square feet and a maximum height above foundation of 28 feet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.3.1: The footprint includes decks attached to the house. At the holder discretion, the footprint may include patios and other ‘outdoor living improvements’ connected to the house (see Standard 2 for discussion of Outdoor Living Improvements). • 1.3.2: Maximum roof height above ground is 28 feet, measured from the top of the foundation with a pitch at or between 3:12 to 9:12. The roof must be of gable and ridge or hip construction with fire resistant shingles; no metal roofs allowed. Attics may be developed into living space, but windows will be limited to walls (dormer windows not allowed). • 1.3.3: Top of the foundation will be within two feet of ground level along one side of the building. Foundation may be stone masonry, concrete, brick, concrete or cinder block wall or piers, on suitable reinforced concrete footings. Basements may be constructed into living or storage space. Foundations must blend with the landscape in its natural finish, or be painted an appropriate blending color such as soft shades of gray, brown, or green. • 1.3.4: Exterior colors and materials – the Forest |
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| | <p>Forest Service will maintain a list of pre-approved colors and materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3.5: Changes to structures may be subject to review by archaeologists prior to approval. See the Forest Service and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Memorandum of Agreement(MOA) Stipulation | <p>Service will maintain a list pre-approved colors and materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3.5: Changes to structures may be subject to review by archaeologists prior to approval. See the Forest Service and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Memorandum of Agreement(MOA) Stipulation |
| | <p>1.4 – Storage Building Specifications: Each recreation residence will be allowed one storage building with a maximum footprint of 100 square feet with a maximum total height of 12 feet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.4.1: Exterior colors and materials – the Forest Service will maintain a list of pre-approved colors and materials. | <p>1.4 – Storage Building Specifications: Each recreation residence will be allowed one storage building with a maximum footprint of 100 square feet with a maximum total height of 12 feet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.4.1: Exterior colors and materials – the Forest Service will maintain a list of pre-approved colors and materials. |
| | <p>1.5 – Pump House Specifications: Each recreation residence will be allowed one pump house with a maximum footprint of 25 sq. ft. and a height no more than 5 feet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5.1: Exterior colors and materials – the Forest Service will maintain a list of pre-approved colors and materials. | <p>1.5 – Pump House Specifications: Each recreation residence will be allowed one pump house with a maximum footprint of 25 sq. ft. and a height no more than 5 feet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5.1: Exterior colors and materials – the Forest Service will maintain a list of pre-approved colors and materials. |

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| | <p>1.6 – Building Grandfather Provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.6.1: All existing buildings (structures with a roof) that are in addition to the residence, pump house, and/or storage shed that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless scheduled for removal in Standard 1.7. Grandfathered buildings include, but are not limited to garages, gazebos, outhouses/toilet, patio covers, bunkhouses, or parking covers. The Holder will be allowed to operate, maintain, and repair but not rehabilitate, replace, alter, or expand these buildings. Outhouses must be removed and the site restored once a septic system is installed. • 1.6.2: Holders with residences, pump houses, and/or storage sheds that exceed the building specifications will be allowed to operate, maintain, and repair but not rehabilitate, replace, alter, or expand these structures unless complying with the residence, pump house, and/or storage shed specifications. An exemption may be granted in cases affecting safety of health (<i>An example would be where a house plus deck has a footprint of 2200 sq. ft. and the permittee wishes to change the dimensions of the deck from 10' by 20' to 10' by 12'. The request would not be granted even though the deck is getting smaller. The reason is the structure would still not meet the standard of 2100 sq. ft. If the proposal was to build the deck at 10' by 10', it would be approved because the change would make the footprint 2100 sq. ft., bringing the structure into compliance with the</i> | <p>1.6 – Building Grandfather Provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.6.1: All existing buildings (structures with a roof) in addition to the residence pump house, and/or storage shed that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed. Grandfathered buildings include, but are not limited to garages, gazebos, outhouses/toilet, patio covers, bunkhouses, boathouses, roofed lake zone decks, second story decks, or parking covers. The Holder will be allowed to operate, maintain, and repair but not rehabilitate, replace, alter, or expand these structures unless scheduled for modification in Standard 1.7. Outhouses must be removed and the site restored once a septic system is installed. • 1.6.2: Holders with residences, pump houses, and/or storage sheds that exceed the building specifications will be allowed to operate, maintain, and repair but not rehabilitate, replace, alter, or expand these structures unless complying with the residence, pump house, and/or storage shed specifications. An exemption may be granted in cases affecting safety of health (<i>An example would be where a house plus deck has a footprint of 2200 sq. ft. and the permittee wishes to change the dimensions of the deck from 10' by 20' to 10' by 12'. The request would not be granted even though the deck is getting smaller. The reason is the structure would still not meet the standard of 2100 sq. ft. If the proposal was to build the deck at 10' by 10', it would be approved because the change would make the footprint 2100 sq. ft., bringing the</i> |
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| | <p><i>standard. An example of an exemption is where a request was made to change wiring from a fuse system to a breaker system for safety reasons. This would only be granted if the same number of outlets, lights, etc... were proposed as was in the structure with the fuse system).</i></p> | <p><i>structure into compliance with the standard. An example of an exception is where a request was made to change wiring from a fuse system to a breaker system for safety reasons. This would only be granted if the same number of outlets, lights, etc... were proposed as was in the structure with the fuse system).</i></p> |
| | <p>1.7 – Buildings Scheduled for Removal: The following improvements must be removed or converted to improvements that meet the standards and guidelines by the end of the permit term (December 31, 2028).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.7.1: Boathouses – Boathouses are roofed structures and therefore are buildings. Buildings are not allowed in the lake zone and these particular structures are not grandfathered. This removal applies to Cabins 10, 16, 19, 22, 23, and 30. • 1.7.2: Roofed Lake Zone Deck – Roofed decks in the lake zone are buildings. Buildings are not allowed in the lake zone and these particular structures are not grandfathered. This removal applies to Cabin 35. • 1.7.3: Second Story Decks – Decks with two stories are considered buildings as the second story serves as a roof for the first story. Buildings are not allowed in the lake zone and these particular structures are not grandfathered. This removal applies to Cabin 27. | <p>1.7 – Buildings Scheduled for Modification: The following improvements must be modified by the end of the permit term (December 31, 2028).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.7.1: Boathouses Enclosed with Constructed Sides– Boathouses are roofed structures and therefore are buildings. Buildings are not allowed in the lake zone, but will be grandfathered with one exception: Boathouses must be modified to not be enclosed with constructed sides by December 31, 2028. This modification applies to Cabins 16, 19, 22, 23, and 30. Cabin 10 boathouse is not enclosed with constructed sides and therefore requires no modification. |

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| <p><u>Standard 2:</u> <u>Outdoor Living Improvement</u> <u>s</u></p> | <p>2.1 – Outdoor Living Improvements Allowed: The Holder is allowed up to 250 sq. ft. of outdoor living improvements on the lot. The Holder is also allowed up to 250 sq. ft. of outdoor living space in the lake zone in addition to the 250 sq. ft. allowed on the lot. Within these spaces, the holder can develop new and/or add to existing improvements. Improvements allowed in outdoor living spaces include, but are not necessarily limited to: patios, lake zone decks, fire rings, BBQ’s, and picnic areas.</p> | <p>2.1 – Outdoor Living Improvements Allowed: The Holder is allowed up to 250 sq. ft. of outdoor living improvements on the lot. The Holder is also allowed up to 250 sq. ft. of outdoor living improvements in the lake zone in addition to the 250 sq. ft. allowed on the lot. Within these spaces, the holder can develop new and/or add to existing improvements. Improvements allowed in outdoor living spaces include, but are not necessarily limited to: patios, lake zone decks, fire rings, BBQ’s, and picnic areas.</p> |
| | <p>2.4 – Location of Outdoor Living Improvements :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.2.1: Lot Outdoor Living Improvements – The 250 square feet can be allocated in a single area (<i>such as a 25 foot by 10 foot patio</i>), or in multiple areas (<i>such as a 10 foot by 10 foot patio, a 14 foot by 10 foot BBQ, and a 2 foot by 5 foot bench</i>). The area includes any constructed and/or vegetative improvements that facilitate outdoor living (<i>A 4 foot diameter fire ring would count as both the size of the fire ring and the area around it cleared to facilitate use. See also ‘Standard 4: Vegetative Improvements’</i>). • 2.2.1: Lake Zone Outdoor Living Improvements – The 250 sq. ft. must be allocated in a single area and must be no wider than 30 feet on the side facing the lake. | <p>2.5 – Location of Outdoor Living Improvements :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.2.1: Lot Outdoor Living Improvements – The 250 square feet can be allocated in a single area (<i>such as a 25 foot by 10 foot patio</i>), or in multiple areas (<i>such as a 10 foot by 10 foot patio, a 14 foot by 10 foot BBQ, and a 2 foot by 5 foot bench</i>). The area includes any constructed and/or vegetative improvements that facilitate outdoor living (<i>A 4 foot diameter fire ring would count as both the size of the fire ring and the area around it cleared to facilitate use. See also ‘Standard 4: Vegetative Improvements’</i>). • 2.2.1: Lake Zone Outdoor Living Improvements – The 250 sq. ft. must be allocated in a single area and must be no wider than 30’ on the side facing the lake. |

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| | <p>2.3 – Outdoor Living Improvements Specifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.3.1: Decks – Decks are only allowed if connected to the residence or located in the lake zone. Decks connected to the residence are considered part of the residence and not outdoor living improvements (see Standard 1.2.1). Decks that are not connected to the residence and not in the lake zone are not allowed. • 2.3.2: Lake Zone Decks – Lake zone decks are allowed under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One edge rests at ground level and is attached to dry land. Decks may extend over water from the land. ○ Decks located entirely on land will be calculated in the 250 sq. ft. of allowable outdoor living space. ○ Decks extending over water from the land can be up to 250 sq. ft. and no wider than 30 ft. on the side facing the lake (see Standard 2.2.1). These decks will be calculated in the 1008 sq. ft. of allowable water use improvements (See also Standard 3.3.3) and in the 250 sq. ft. of allowable outdoor living improvements (See also Standard 2.2.1). <i>(Example: If a Holder has a 250 sq. ft. deck that extends over the water from the land and said deck is 30 ft. wide on the side facing the lake, then the holder can develop up to 758 sq. ft. of additional water use improvements within the 1008 sq. ft. water</i> | <p>2.3 – Outdoor Living Improvements Specifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.3.1: Decks – Decks are only allowed if connected to the residence or located in the lake zone. Decks connected to the residence are considered part of the residence and not outdoor living improvements (see Standard 1.2.1). Decks that are not connected to the residence and not in the lake zone are not allowed. • 2.3.2: Lake Zone Decks – Lake zone decks are allowed under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One edge rests at ground level and is attached to dry land. Decks may extend over water from the land. ○ Decks located entirely on land will be calculated in the 250 sq. ft. of allowable outdoor living improvements. ○ Decks extending over water from the land can be up to 250 sq. ft. and no wider than 30 ft. on the side facing the lake (see Standard 2.2.1). These decks will be calculated in the 1008 sq. ft. of allowable water use improvements (See also Standard 3.3.3) and in the 250 sq. ft. of allowable outdoor living improvements (See also Standard 2.2.1). <i>(Example: If a Holder has a 250 sq. ft. deck that extends over the water from the land and said deck is 30 ft. wide on the side facing the lake, then the holder can develop up to 758 sq. ft. of additional water use improvements within the 1008 sq. ft. water use improvement rectangle. 1008 sq. ft. – 250 sq. ft. = 758 sq.</i> |
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| | <p><i>use improvement rectangle. 1008 sq. ft. – 250 sq. ft. = 758 sq. ft. However, the Holder will not be allowed to develop any more outdoor living improvements in the lake zone since the 250 sq. ft. allocation is used up by the deck. In this example, if the Holder had only a 200 sq. ft. deck, they still would not be able to develop an additional 50 sq. ft. of outdoor living improvements elsewhere in the lake zone because the outdoor living improvements must be allocated in a single location, see Standard 2.2.1.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Railings or other permanent attachments do not exceed 48 inches in height above the top of the decking. ○ Stairs and railings are kept to the minimum length practical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2.3.3: Patios – Patios and other outdoor living improvements connected to the residence may be counted either as part of the house footprint (when the house footprint is not used up by the house and attached deck), or counted as part of the outdoor living space allocation. <i>(An example of this is where a house and deck have a footprint of 1800 sq. ft and a 250 sq. ft. patio also is attached to the house. The Holder could count the patio as part of the house footprint and build a patio up to 250 sq. ft. somewhere else on the lot, or count the patio as outdoor living improvements and increase the deck and house an additional 300 sq. ft. In another example the Holder with a 2100 sq. ft. deck and house combination would not be allowed to count</i> | <p><i>ft. However, the Holder will not be allowed to develop any more outdoor living improvements in the lake zone since the 250 sq. ft. allocation is used up by the deck. In this example, if the Holder had only a 200 sq. ft. deck, they still would not be able to develop an additional 50 sq. ft. of outdoor living improvements elsewhere in the lake zone because the outdoor living improvements must be allocated in a single location, see Standard 2.2.1.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Railings or other permanent attachments do not exceed 48 inches in height above the top of the decking. ○ Stairs and railings are kept to the minimum length practical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2.3.3: Patios – Patios and other outdoor living improvements connected to the residence may be counted either as part of the house footprint (when the house footprint is not used up by the house and attached deck), or counted as part of the outdoor living improvements allocation. <i>(An example of this is where a house and deck have a footprint of 1800 sq. ft and a 250 sq. ft. patio also is attached to the house. The Holder could count the patio as part of the house footprint and build a patio up to 250 sq. ft. somewhere else on the lot, or count the patio as outdoor living improvements and increase the deck and house an additional 300 sq. ft. In another example the Holder with a 2100 sq. ft. deck and house combination would not be allowed to count the deck as outdoor living improvements and increase the size</i> |
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| | <p><i>the deck as outdoor living improvements and increase the size of the house because decks must be attached to the house and counted as part of its footprint).</i></p> | <p><i>of the house because decks must be attached to the house and counted as part of its footprint).</i></p> |
| | <p>2.4 – Outdoor Living Improvements Grandfather Provisions: All existing outdoor living improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless such improvements are also considered building improvements and/or water use improvements that are scheduled for removal in Standards 1.7 or Standard 3.5. Grandfathered outdoor living improvements must be designed to meet the standards and guidelines when the holder proposes rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of improvements. Existing outdoor living improvements that are not listed on the permit will be reviewed and addressed on a case by case basis.</p> | <p>2.4 – Outdoor Living Improvements Grandfather Provisions: All existing outdoor living improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless such improvements are also considered building improvements and/or water use improvements that are scheduled for removal in Standards 1.7 or Standard 3.5. Grandfathered outdoor living improvements must be designed to meet the standards and guidelines when the holder proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of improvements. Existing outdoor living improvements that are not listed on the permit will be reviewed and addressed on a case by case basis.</p> |
| <p><u>Standard 3:</u> <u>Water Use</u> <u>Improvements</u> <u>s</u></p> | <p>3.1 – Water Use Improvements Allowed: Holders are allowed to develop new and/or add to existing water use improvements such as docks, lake zone decks, jet ski ramps, fishing piers, etc.</p> | <p>3.1 – Water Use Improvements Allowed: Holders are allowed to develop new and/or add to existing water use improvements such as docks, lake zone decks, jet ski ramps, fishing piers, etc.</p> |

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| | <p>3.2 – Location of Water Use Improvements: Water Use Improvements must be located in a single area. This location is restricted to the following size:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.2.1: The square footage of a rectangle drawn to enclose all the water use improvements must be equal or less than 1008 sq. ft. (i.e. roughly a 31 ft. by 31 ft. square, 20 ft. by 50 ft. rectangle, etc.). | <p>3.2 – Location of Water Use Improvements: Water Use Improvements must be located in a single area. This location is restricted to the following size:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.2.1: The square footage of a rectangle drawn to enclose all the water use improvements must be equal or less than 1008 sq. ft. (i.e. roughly a 31 ft. by 31 ft. square, 20 ft. by 50 ft. rectangle, etc.). |
| | <p>3.3 – Water Use Improvements Specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.3.1: Docks –Docks are purposed for ingress and egress from a watercraft and are not considered outdoor living improvements. • 3.3.2: Gangways – The water use improvements must use a common gangway to connect to the land, deck, or other improvement on the land and that gangway is the minimum length necessary to facilitate use of the dock. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gangways are subtracted from the rectangle square footage if the gangway connects the land with a dock. Gangways are not subtracted from the rectangle square footage if the gangway connects an improvement on the land (such as lake zone deck) with a dock. | <p>3.3 – Water Use Improvements Specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.3.1: Docks –Docks are purposed for ingress and egress from a watercraft and are not considered outdoor living improvements. • 3.3.2: Gangways – The water use improvements must use a common gangway to connect to the land, deck, or other improvement on the land and that gangway is the minimum length necessary to facilitate use of the dock. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gangways are subtracted from the rectangle square footage if the gangway connects the land with a dock. Gangways are not subtracted from the rectangle square footage if the gangway connects an improvement on the land (such as lake zone deck) with a dock. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.3.3: Lake Zone Decks – Lake zone decks extending out over the water with one edge resting on the ground are allowed and are considered water use improvements and outdoor living improvements (See also Standard 2.3.2). In addition, holders may develop new and or add to existing such decks provided they are located within the 1008 sq. ft. of allowable water use improvements and no wider than 30 ft. on the side facing the lake and comply with the rest of Standard 3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No new decks that are over the surface of the water, that are not connected to land on one edge (free standing decks out in the water) will be allowed. ⊖ Cabins 43, 44, 45, and 46 have available an exception to the limits on developing free standing decks out in the water. This exception is due to the close proximity of Card Spur Road to the lake shore. This limits or makes nonexistent their chance for 250 square feet of outdoor living space in the lake zone. They have one of two options. These cabins either get 250 square feet of lake zone deck which is entirely or partially on, in, and/or over the water (i.e. free standing decks or decks connected to the land) or 250 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.3.3: Lake Zone Decks – Lake zone decks extending out over the water with one edge resting on the ground are allowed and are considered water use improvements and outdoor living improvements (See also Standard 2.3.2). In addition, holders may develop new and or add to existing such decks provided they are located within the 1008 sq. ft. of allowable water use improvements and comply with the rest of Standard 3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No new decks that are over the surface of the water, that are not connected to land on one edge (free standing decks out in the water) will be allowed. ⊖ Cabins 43, 44, 45, and 46 have available an exception to the limits on free standing decks out in the water. This exception is due to the close proximity of Card Spur Road to the lake shore. This limits or makes nonexistent their chance for 250 square feet of outdoor living improvements in the lake zone. They have one of two options. These cabins either get 250 square feet of lake zone deck which is entirely or partially on, in, and/or over the water (i.e. free standing decks or decks connected to the land) or 250 square feet of outdoor living improvements |
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| | <p>square feet of outdoor living improvements in the lake zone that is entirely located on land, but not both.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.3.4: Height Restrictions - No improvement can exceed 40 inches height above summer pool except gangways or railings needed for safety. This includes diving boards, slides, and other constructed features and/or overhead components (i.e. no roofs, second story decks, etc. are allowed) | <p>in the lake zone that is entirely located on land, but not both.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.3.4: Height Restrictions - No improvement can exceed 40 inches height above summer pool except gangways or railings needed for safety. This includes diving boards, slides, and other constructed features and/or overhead components (i.e. no roofs, second story decks, etc. are allowed) |
| | <p>3.4 – Water Use Improvements Grandfather Provisions: All existing water use improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless such improvements are also considered building improvements and/or water use improvements that are scheduled for removal in Standards 1.7, or Standard 3.5, or stipulated for removal as a condition of approval in Standard 3.4.1. Grandfathered water use improvements must be designed to meet the standards and guidelines when the holder proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of improvements. <i>(An example is if a holder has a deck, gangway, and dock and the holder proposes a smaller dock. The rectangle is currently 2000 sq. ft. and the smaller dock would bring the rectangle to 1300 sq. ft. Although the dock is getting smaller, additional modifications to the arrangement or size of water use improvements would be required as a stipulation of approval in order to be within the allowed 1008 sq. ft. rectangle.)</i> Existing water use improvements that are not listed on the permit will be reviewed and</p> | <p>3.4 – Water Use Improvements Grandfather Provisions: All existing water use improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless such improvements are also considered building improvements and/or water use improvements that are scheduled for removal in Standards 1.7 or stipulated for removal as a condition of approval in Standards 3.4.1 or 3.4.2. Grandfathered water use improvements must be designed to meet the standards and guidelines when the holder proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of improvements. <i>(An example is if a holder has a deck, gangway, and dock and the holder proposes a smaller dock. The rectangle is currently 2000 sq. ft. and the smaller dock would bring the rectangle to 1300 sq. ft. Although the dock is getting smaller, additional modifications to the arrangement or size of water use improvements would be required as a stipulation of approval in order to be within the allowed 1008 sq. ft. rectangle.)</i> Existing water use improvements that are not listed on the permit will be reviewed and addressed on a case by case</p> |

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| | <p>addressed on a case by case basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.4.1: Existing free standing decks in the water are grandfathered and will be allowed to be repaired and maintained only with no major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion. If the holder has a grandfathered free standing deck in the water and proposes rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of any water use improvement(s), removal of the free standing deck would be a condition of approval. <i>(An example would be where a holder with a free standing deck proposes enlarging their dock and the holder is in compliance with all other aspects of Standard 3. The authorized officer would approve the larger dock as long as the holder agrees to remove the free standing deck prior to enlarging the dock.)</i> | <p>basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.4.1: Existing free standing decks in the water are grandfathered and will be allowed to be repaired and maintained only with no major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion. If the holder has a grandfathered free standing deck in the water and proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of any water use improvement(s), removal of the free standing deck would be a condition of approval. <i>(An example would be where a holder with a free standing deck proposes enlarging their dock and the holder is in compliance with all other aspects of Standard 3. The authorized officer would approve the larger dock as long as the holder agrees to remove the free standing deck prior to enlarging the dock.)</i> 3.4.2: Diving Boards and Water Slides – Diving boards and water slides that extend over 40 inches above the water at summer pool level are grandfathered. If the holder has a grandfathered diving board or water slide above 40 inches and proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of any water use improvement(s), removal of the diving board or water slide or modification to meet the 40 inch height requirement would be a condition of approval. |
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| | <p>3.5 – Water Use Improvements Scheduled for Removal: The following improvements must be removed or converted to improvements that meet the standards and guidelines by the end of the permit term (December 31, 2028).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.5.1: Water use improvements or components thereof which are higher than a standard safety railing must be removed. This does not apply to personal property, only improvements and/or components of a permanent nature, if such improvements exist. • 3.5.2: Diving Boards and Water Slides – Diving boards and water slides that extend over 40 inches above the water at summer pool level. This removal applies to Cabins 16, 21, 23, 27, and 55. Diving boards and water slides are allowed as long as they do not extend over 40 inches above the water at summer pool level. | |
| <p><u>Standard 4: Vegetative Improvement</u> 5</p> | <p>4.1 – Vegetation Modification: No modification of vegetation, on or off the lot, is allowed except under the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1.1: Vegetation modification to reduce the risk of wildfire damaging structures is allowed. An on-site evaluation by the Forest Service is required to determine what modification would be allowed. Maintenance of the fire protection zone is allowed, but only if listed in the Maintenance Plan and approved by the Forest Service. <i>(Generally this type of modification includes trimming back of brush and some</i> | <p>4.1 – Vegetation Modification: No modification of vegetation, on or off the lot, is allowed except under the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1.1: Vegetation modification to reduce the risk of wildfire damaging structures is allowed. An on-site evaluation by the Forest Service is required to determine what modification would be allowed. Maintenance of the fire protection zone is allowed, but only if listed in the Maintenance Plan and approved by the Forest Service. <i>(Generally this type of modification includes trimming back of brush and some thinning of trees within 30 feet</i> |

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| | <p><i>thinning of trees within 30 feet of the house. Other issues may play a role in determining what work will be allowed such as needing vegetation left as a visual buffer, or for protecting water quality).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1.2: Vegetation may be modified in areas where the permit specifies an approved use for the area, such as roads, parking lots, patios, walkways, outdoor living improvements, etc. These modifications must be to maintain or improve the use and are required to be listed in the Maintenance Plan and approved by the Forest Service (<i>Some examples include clearing along a driveway to improve line-of-sight distance, clearing vegetation in and adjacent to a patio or pathway, mowing a lawn on permits that allow lawns</i>). • 4.1.3: Hazards to structures or people at the site may be removed or modified with prior approval from the Forest Service. Approval means the Forest Service marks the tree and issues a timber permit to the holder prior to cutting of the tree (see also Clause III.E. of the Term Special Use Permit for Recreation Residences). There are <u>rare</u> cases where prior approval is not necessary. The risk must be imminent and not avoidable in the time it would take to contact the Forest Service. The Forest Service must be contacted the first business day after the emergency work. (<i>An example of this is when a wind storm pushes a tree over so that it is leaning over a house on a weekend. The risk to the house is imminent and waiting until Monday to contact the Forest</i> | <p><i>of the house. Other issues may play a role in determining what work will be allowed such as needing vegetation left as a visual buffer, or for protecting water quality).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1.2: Vegetation may be modified in areas where the permit specifies an approved use for the area, such as roads, parking lots, patios, walkways, outdoor living improvements, etc. These modifications must be to maintain or improve the use and are required to be listed in the Maintenance Plan and approved by the Forest Service (<i>Some examples include clearing along a driveway to improve line-of-sight distance, clearing vegetation in and adjacent to a patio or pathway, mowing a lawn on permits that allow lawns</i>). • 4.1.3: Hazards to structures or people at the site may be removed or modified with prior approval from the Forest Service. Approval means the Forest Service marks the tree and issues a timber permit to the holder prior to cutting of the tree (see also Clause III.E. of the Term Special Use Permit for Recreation Residences). There are <u>rare</u> cases where prior approval is not necessary. The risk must be imminent and not avoidable in the time it would take to contact the Forest Service. The Forest Service must be contacted the first business day after the emergency work. (<i>An example of this is when a wind storm pushes a tree over so that it is leaning over a house on a weekend. The risk to the house is imminent and waiting until Monday to contact the Forest Service may result in damage to the house. If the tree</i> |
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| | <p><i>Service may result in damage to the house. If the tree was leaning over a path, or parking lot instead, prior permission is required because the risk is avoidable by not walking or parking under the tree).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4.1.4: Recreation Residences without lake access may be allowed up to ½ acre of lawn, but not exceeding their lot size. ● 4.1.5: In situations where an existing residence is located in the lake zone, and reduction of risk to a residence from fire would occur in the vegetation management zone, a minimum of ½ the distance from the lake to the building will be retained in an unmanaged state. <i>(A house is located 20 feet from the lake. Fuels reduction such as thinning may be approved up to 10 feet away from the house).</i> ● 4.1.6: Holders may request approval of a view corridor up to 20 feet wide between the Recreation Residence and the lake. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primarily focused on the management of brush, limbs, and small trees. Removal of trees larger than 2 inches diameter will only be approved in the initial designation of the corridor. A permit is required before they can be cut. ○ Once a corridor is established, a new corridor will not be approved until the old corridor has re-vegetated to a | <p><i>was leaning over a path, or parking lot instead, prior permission is required because the risk is avoidable by not walking or parking under the tree).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4.1.4: Recreation Residences without lake access may be allowed up to ½ acre of lawn, but not exceeding their lot size. ● 4.1.5: In situations where an existing residence is located in the lake zone, and reduction of risk to a residence from fire would occur in the vegetation management zone, a minimum of ½ the distance from the lake to the building will be retained in an unmanaged state. <i>(A house is located 20 feet from the lake. Fuels reduction such as thinning may be approved up to 10 feet away from the house).</i> ● 4.1.6: Holders may request approval of a view corridor up to 20 feet wide between the Recreation Residence and the lake. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primarily focused on the management of brush, limbs, and small trees. Removal of trees larger than 2 inches diameter will only be approved in the initial designation of the corridor. A permit is required before they can be cut. ○ Once a corridor is established, a new corridor will not be approved until the old corridor has re-vegetated to a state that is similar to the surrounding |
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| | <p>state that is similar to the surrounding forest (An example of this is where a holder modifies the house and the living room window is now on the opposite end of the house. A request to create a new corridor for this new window will not be approved until the vegetation in the old corridor has grown up to match the surrounding forest.).</p> | <p>forest (An example of this is where a holder modifies the house and the living room window is now on the opposite end of the house. A request to create a new corridor for this new window will not be approved until the vegetation in the old corridor has grown up to match the surrounding forest.).</p> |
| | <p>4.2 – Landscaping: Only plants native to the Recreation Residence site will be approved for use in landscaping or use on site where there is a risk that a non-native plant may establish itself in the surrounding forest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.2.1: Plants kept in the house are not likely to establish in the surrounding forest and therefore are allowed. • 4.2.2: Plants kept in pots outdoors on patios or porches are generally allowed as long as it is not designated as invasive or as a noxious weed by either the state of Tennessee or by the Cherokee National Forest (Forest Botanist maintains current regional and state guidance on invasive exotic plants). • 4.2.3: Straw and some types of mulch may contain seeds of noxious weeds and must be weed free for use on the Cherokee National Forest. • 4.2.4: For the permits that allow lawns, non- | <p>4.2 – Landscaping: Only plants native to the Recreation Residence site will be approved for use in landscaping or use on site where there is a risk that a non-native plant may establish itself in the surrounding forest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.2.1: Plants kept in the house are not likely to establish in the surrounding forest and therefore are allowed. • 4.2.2: Plants kept in pots outdoors on patios or porches are generally allowed as long as it is not designated as invasive or as a noxious weed by either the state of Tennessee or by the Cherokee National Forest (Forest Botanist maintains current regional and state guidance on invasive exotic plants). • 4.2.3: Straw and some types of mulch may contain seeds of noxious weeds and must be certified weed free for use on the Cherokee National Forest. • 4.2.4: For the permits that allow lawns, non- |

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| | <p>native grasses may be approved for seeding/reseeding. Seed must be certified weed free for use on the Cherokee National Forest (<i>Some permits that do not have lake access are allowed lawns – Lake access permits do not allow lawns.</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.2.5: The holder may use, in accordance with manufacturer recommendations, over the counter herbicides for eradication of non-native or invasive plants on the lot (i.e. English ivy). Such efforts must be coordinated with the Forest Service. | <p>native grasses may be approved for seeding/reseeding. Seed must be certified weed free for use on the Cherokee National Forest (<i>Some permits that do not have lake access are allowed lawns – Lake access permits do not allow lawns.</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.2.5: The holder may use, in accordance with manufacturer recommendations, over the counter herbicides for eradication of non-native or invasive plants on the lot (i.e. English ivy). Such efforts must be coordinated with the Forest Service. |
| | <p>4.3 – Vegetative Grandfather Provisions: Vegetative improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines are not grandfathered and must cease to be developed, maintained, or operated. The holder may develop, reconfigure, rearrange, or otherwise plan vegetative improvements to meet the standards and guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.3.1: Only vegetative improvements meeting these standards and guidelines will be allowed to continue. All other natural vegetation will be allowed and encouraged to grow. | <p>4.3 – Vegetative Grandfather Provisions: Vegetative improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines are not grandfathered and must cease to be developed, maintained, or operated. The holder may develop, reconfigure, rearrange, or otherwise plan vegetative improvements to meet the standards and guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.3.1: Only vegetative improvements meeting these standards and guidelines will be allowed to continue. All other natural vegetation will be allowed and encouraged to grow. |
| <p><u>Standard 5: Ancillary Improvements</u></p> | <p>5.1 – Exterior Lighting: Exterior lighting is allowed on buildings, at outdoor living improvements, and along paths to facilitate safe use of the site after dark if the lighting is designed to minimize light pollution off site.</p> | <p>5.1 – Exterior Lighting: Exterior lighting is allowed on buildings, at outdoor living improvements, and along paths to facilitate safe use of the site after dark if the lighting is designed to minimize light pollution off site.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.1.1: Exterior lights can only be used when the recreation residence is occupied. No automated security lights are allowed. Interior lighting that shines out from the residence is similarly restricted to use during occupancy.• 5.1.2: Lighting located higher than 3 feet off the ground must point straight down and have a reflector that directs the light towards the ground and shielding that prevents light from shining above horizontal. Additionally these lights may have a maximum light output of 1700 lumens (which is roughly equivalent of a 100 watt incandescent bulb).• 5.1.3: Lights located higher than 3 feet from the ground are limited as follows;<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1 allowed at each entrance of the residence or storage building.○ 1 allowed at the parking area.○ 1 total allowed for outdoor living improvements or decks attached to the residence.• 5.1.4: Lighting located at 3 feet or lower from the ground may have a maximum light output of 350 lumens (which is the roughly equivalent of a 35 watt incandescent bulb) and have shielding that prevents light from shining above horizontal.. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.1.1: Exterior lights can only be used when the recreation residence is occupied. No automated security lights are allowed. Interior lighting that shines out from the residence is similarly restricted to use during occupancy.• 5.1.2: Lighting located higher than 3 feet off the ground must point straight down and have a reflector that directs the light towards the ground and shielding that prevents light from shining above horizontal. Additionally these lights may have a maximum light output of 1700 lumens (which is roughly equivalent of a 100 watt incandescent bulb).• 5.1.3: Lights located higher than 3 feet from the ground are limited as follows;<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1 allowed at each entrance of the residence or storage building.○ 1 allowed at the parking area.○ 1 total allowed for outdoor living improvements or decks attached to the residence.• 5.1.4: Lighting located at 3 feet or lower from the ground may have a maximum light output of 350 lumens (which is the roughly equivalent of a 35 watt incandescent bulb) and have shielding that prevents light from shining above horizontal.. |
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Environmental Assessment

Recreation Residences and Camp Cherokee

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.1.5: Lights located 3 feet or lower from the ground (or floors) are limited as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1 allowed every 10 ft. along pathways.○ 1 allowed for each 50 sq. ft. of outdoor living space.○ 1 allowed on dock facilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.1.5: Lights located 3 feet or lower from the ground (or floors) are limited as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1 allowed every 10 ft. along pathways.○ 1 allowed for each 50 sq. ft. of outdoor living improvements.○ 1 allowed on dock facilities. |
| | <p>5.2 – Gates: Gates are permissible for driveways, but have to be approved. This includes color, design, and standard object markers and reflectors.</p> | <p>5.2 – Gates: Gates are permissible for driveways, but have to be approved. This includes color, design, and standard object markers and reflectors.</p> |
| | <p>5.3 – Roads, Driveways, and Parking Areas: Existing roads, driveways, and parking areas are allowed and may be operated, maintained, and repaired. Acceptable maintenance and repair include adding gravel, cleaning out ditches and culverts, grading, repairing potholes, and other minor activities in the spirit of the definition of maintenance. Written requests and approvals are required for construction, major rehabilitation, alterations, or expansions to roads, driveways, and parking areas. Such requests will be reviewed by the Forest Roads Engineer. Approval in such cases may require additional site specific environmental analysis and design, depending on the situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.3.1: Holders are responsible for the operation, maintenance, and repair of driveways and parking areas serving their residences. Only specified National Forest System roads are the | <p>5.3 – Roads, Driveways, and Parking Areas: Existing roads, driveways, and parking areas are allowed and may be operated, maintained, and repaired. Acceptable maintenance and repair include adding gravel, cleaning out ditches and culverts, grading, repairing potholes, and other minor activities in the spirit of the definition of maintenance. Written requests and approvals are required for construction, major rehabilitation, alterations, or expansions to roads, driveways, and parking areas. Such requests will be reviewed by the Forest Roads Engineer. Approval in such cases may require additional site specific environmental analysis and design, depending on the situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.3.1: Holders are responsible for the operation, maintenance, and repair of driveways and parking areas serving their residences. Only specified National Forest System roads are the |

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| | <p>responsibility of the Forest Service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.3.2: Holders may request and be granted approval from the Forest Service to operate, maintain, and repair National Forest System roads. Such requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis and require a separate road permit to an individual or road association/organization. | <p>responsibility of the Forest Service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.3.2: Holders may request and be granted approval from the Forest Service to operate, maintain, and repair National Forest System roads. Such requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis and require a separate road permit to an individual or road association/organization. |
| | <p>5.4 – Paths, Walkways, and Trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.4.1: Pathways connecting the residence to parking lots, utility sites, outdoor living improvements, and the lake zone are allowed. • 5.4.2: Pathways do not count as part of the outdoor living improvement calculation. They may not exceed 4 feet cleared vegetation width, and 3 feet of tread width. | <p>5.4 – Paths, Walkways, and Trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.4.1: Pathways connecting the residence to parking lots, utility sites, outdoor living improvements, and the lake zone are allowed. • 5.4.2: Pathways do not count as part of the outdoor living improvement calculation. They may not exceed 4 feet cleared vegetation width, and 3 feet of tread width. |
| | <p>5.6 – Fences: Fences are not allowed and the public is allowed to walk through the permit area.</p> | <p>5.5– Fences: Fences are not allowed and the public is allowed to walk through the permit area.</p> |
| | <p>5.6 – Permanent storage boxes: will be allowed as long as the box is in the outdoor living space, is no taller than 40 inches, and is constructed of an approved natural material and color that is harmonious with the elements in the outdoor living space area.</p> | <p>5.6 – Permanent storage boxes: will be allowed as long as the box is in the outdoor living improvements, is no taller than 40 inches, and is constructed of an approved natural material and color that is harmonious with the elements in the outdoor living improvements area.</p> |

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| | <p>5.7 – Water Lines, Power Lines, Septic Systems, and Other Utilities: Water lines, power lines, septic systems, and other utilities are acceptable improvements on the lot. In many cases, the Forest Service must approve such uses by amending the residence permit and the utility company permit (if applicable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7.1: In general, water lines, power lines, cable lines, and other linear utilities should be buried rather than run aboveground. All utilities must be installed to meet applicable codes (see Standard 6.5). | <p>5.7 – Water Lines, Power Lines, Septic Systems, and Other Utilities: Water lines, power lines, septic systems, and other utilities are acceptable improvements on the lot. In many cases, the Forest Service must approve such uses by amending the residence permit and the utility company permit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7.1: In general, water lines, power lines, cable lines, and other linear utilities should be buried rather than run aboveground. All utilities must be installed to meet applicable codes (see Standard 6.5). |
| | <p>5.7 – Ancillary Improvements Grandfather Provisions: All existing ancillary improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless such improvements are also considered building improvements and/or water use improvements that are scheduled for removal. Grandfathered ancillary improvements must be designed to meet the standards and guidelines when the holder proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of improvements. Existing ancillary improvements that are not listed on the permit will be reviewed and addressed on a case by case basis.</p> | <p>5.8 – Ancillary Improvements Grandfather Provisions: All existing ancillary improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines that are already approved and listed on the permit will be allowed unless such improvements are also considered building improvements and/or water use improvements that are scheduled for removal. Grandfathered ancillary improvements must be designed to meet the standards and guidelines when the holder proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of improvements. Existing ancillary improvements that are not listed on the permit will be reviewed and addressed on a case by case basis.</p> |
| <p><u>Standard 6: Operation, Maintenance, and General Uses</u></p> | <p>6.1 – Location of Uses and Improvements: All uses and improvements must be located within the lot boundaries with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads, parking lots, and paths connecting these | <p>6.1 – Location of Uses and Improvements: All uses and improvements must be located within the lot boundaries with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads, parking lots, and paths connecting these |

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| | <p>sites to the lot when the Forest Service determines that it is in the best interest of the agency to locate them outside the lot. <i>(An example would be where constructing a parking space on the lot would not meet environmental standards but could be constructed near the lot and meet them).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilities where they are not practical or by necessity must be located off the lot. Utilities include electrical, water and sewer and may include satellite TV/internet at the discretion of the Forest Service. This standard includes provisions for an access trail or vegetation management when needed for maintenance. <i>(An example of this is where city water and sewer is available and the lines must leave the lot to connect or when a septic tank would not function properly on the lot, but could be located nearby and function correctly).</i> • Where structures are located near the lot line and the Forest Service determines that some limited vegetation management would be allowed for protection of the structure <i>(An example would be fire protection).</i> • In cases where improvements are at risk due to a condition outside the lot, the Forest Service may grant permission to reduce or remove the risk <i>(An example of this is where a tree may be ready to fall on the house, but is located outside the lot).</i> | <p>sites to the lot when the Forest Service determines that it is in the best interest of the agency to locate them outside the lot. <i>(An example would be where constructing a parking space on the lot would not meet environmental standards but could be constructed near the lot and meet them).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilities where they are not practical or by necessity must be located off the lot. Utilities include electrical, water and sewer and may include satellite TV/internet at the discretion of the Forest Service. This standard includes provisions for an access trail or vegetation management when needed for maintenance. <i>(An example of this is where city water and sewer is available and the lines must leave the lot to connect or when a septic tank would not function properly on the lot, but could be located nearby and function correctly).</i> • Where structures are located near the lot line and the Forest Service determines that some limited vegetation management would be allowed for protection of the structure <i>(An example would be fire protection).</i> • In cases where improvements are at risk due to a condition outside the lot, the Forest Service may grant permission to reduce or remove the risk <i>(An example of this is where a tree may be ready to fall on the house, but is located outside the lot).</i> |
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| | <p>6.2 – Personal Property: Items associated with the recreational nature of the site may be used at the recreational residence and stored short term. No long term storage of personal effects is allowed on site except in enclosed structures listed on the permit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.2.1: Items associated with the recreational nature of the site include lawn chairs; canoes, power boats etc., but must be directly related to the use of the site as a recreation residence. <i>(An example of this may be where a camper trailer is left on site. This would be allowed when, on a family reunion weekend, the camper would be used to house extra guests. It would not be allowed when the trailer is there just to free up parking space at the Holders home. Additionally, the trailer could only be on site during the period or season of use, which, in this example would be the weekend of the family reunion and removed the trailer after that weekend.)</i> • 6.2.2: Long term is defined as periods of absence from the site of more than one month or items whose use is seasonal in nature and kept on site outside the season of normal use. <i>(An example of this is power boats, Jet Ski, etc may be kept at the residence during the months that the lake is at summer pool, but must be removed from the site for the winter months. If the owners of the residence expected not to return in the next month, the boat would need to be removed from the site. Items such as lawn chairs, canoes, etc. would either need to be</i> | <p>6.2 – Personal Property: Items associated with the recreational nature of the site may be used at the recreational residence and stored short term. No long term storage of personal effects is allowed on site except in enclosed structures listed on the permit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.2.1: Items associated with the recreational nature of the site include lawn chairs; canoes, power boats etc., but must be directly related to the use of the site as a recreation residence. <i>(An example of this may be where a camper trailer is left on site. This would be allowed when, on a family reunion weekend, the camper would be used to house extra guests. It would not be allowed when the trailer is there just to free up parking space at the Holders home. Additionally, the trailer could only be on site during the period or season of use, which, in this example would be the weekend of the family reunion and removed the trailer after that weekend.)</i> • 6.2.2: Long term is defined as periods of absence from the site of more than one month or items whose use is seasonal in nature and kept on site outside the season of normal use. <i>(An example of this is power boats, Jet Ski, etc may be kept at the residence during the months that the lake is at summer pool, but must be removed from the site for the winter months. If the owners of the residence expected not to return in the next month, the boat would need to be removed from the site. Items such as lawn chairs, canoes, etc. would either need to be removed or stored in</i> |
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| | <p><i>removed or stored in enclosed structures on the site).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.2.3: Anything stored within the residence, a storage shed, or similar constructed enclosed building may be left on site year round. The enclosed building must be structures approved on the permit or grandfathered. <i>(An enclosed building is one with walls and a roof, and is secured with a door. Storage is allowed under porches when space is enclosed with walls or lattice such that the stored items are hidden from view. Temporary storage containers such as plastic storage bins or boxes are not approved for long term storage and must be themselves stored.)</i> • 6.2.4: Any item that has the potential to be blown off site on a windy day must be removed or stored in an enclosed building prior to leaving the site regardless of the time of absence. • 6.2.5: Temporary shade canopies with frames are allowed on improvements (such as ‘easy-ups’ or similar products), but must be taken down when not in use, particularly at the end of the summer season or during periods of extended non-use. Reasonable conservatism should be exercised in use of these products. Shade canopies may not have constructed frames or roofs or be intended for permanent use, because they would then be considered | <p><i>enclosed structures on the site).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.2.3: Anything stored within the residence, a storage shed, or similar constructed enclosed building may be left on site year round. The enclosed building must be structures approved on the permit and grandfathered. <i>(An enclosed building is one with walls and a roof, and is secured with a door. Storage is allowed under porches when space is enclosed with walls or lattice such that the stored items are hidden from view. Temporary storage containers such as plastic storage bins or boxes are not approved for long term storage and must be themselves stored.)</i> • 6.2.4: Any item that has the potential to be blown off site on a windy day must be removed or stored in an enclosed building prior to leaving the site regardless of the time of absence. • 6.2.5: Temporary shade canopies with frames are allowed on improvements (such as ‘easy-ups’ or similar products), but must be taken down when not in use, particularly at the end of the summer season or during periods of extended non-use. Reasonable conservatism should be exercised in use of these products. Shade canopies may not have constructed frames or roofs or be intended for permanent use, because they would then be considered unauthorized improvements rather than |
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| | <p>unauthorized improvements rather than movable personal property.</p> | <p>movable personal property.</p> |
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| | <p>6.3 – Trash Storage and Disposal: Trash must be stored in animal resistant containers (especially for black bears) or kept inside the residence. Trash must be disposed of off the National Forest; dumping in Forest Service trash containers is not permitted and is a violation of law. Trash must be removed from National Forest land a minimum of once every seven days.</p> | <p>6.3 – Trash Storage and Disposal: Trash must be stored in animal resistant containers (especially for black bears) or kept inside the residence. Trash must be disposed of off the National Forest; dumping in Forest Service trash containers is not permitted and is a violation of law. Trash must be removed from National Forest land a minimum of once every seven days.</p> |
| | <p>6.4 – Use and Storage of Hazardous Materials: Use and storage of hazardous materials is not permitted with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.4.1: Household products normally found at a supermarket or home improvement store are allowed if the quantity of an individual product does not exceed 1 gallon and they are stored in their original container. <i>(Some examples include bleach, herbicides, pesticides, etc...)</i>. • 6.4.2: Liquid fuels and oil may be stored on site if the total quantity is less than 25 gallons and it is stored in containers certified for the fuel. Propane may be stored on site in approved tanks/containers. No permanent fuel storage tanks/containers are allowed except for propane. | <p>6.4 – Use and Storage of Hazardous Materials: Use and storage of hazardous materials is not permitted with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.4.1: Household products normally found at a supermarket or home improvement store are allowed if the quantity of an individual product does not exceed 1 gallon and they are stored in their original container. <i>(Some examples include bleach, herbicides, pesticides, etc...)</i>. • 6.4.2: Liquid fuels and oil may be stored on site if the total quantity is less than 25 gallons and it is stored in containers certified for the fuel. Propane may be stored on site in approved tanks/containers. No permanent fuel storage tanks/containers are allowed except for propane. |

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| | <p>6.5 – Codes: All improvements must meet current International Codes developed by the International Code Council (ICC) and other national, state, and local codes (when applicable) for safe construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6.5.1: Electric Wiring - Materials and equipment shall be Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved and installation shall be in accordance with the National Electric Code.• 6.5.2: Sub-surface wastewater disposal systems shall comply with Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 53-2044 and shall be approved by the local county health department.• 6.5.3: All plans and revisions to plans for development, layout, construction, reconstruction, or alteration of improvements shall be prepared and stamped by a licensed professional engineer or architect registered in the state of Tennessee. Plans will then be presented for review by the Forest Service engineering staff prior to approval by the authorized officer and commencement of any work. (see also Clause II.B. of the Term Special Use Permit for Recreation Residences.) | <p>6.5 – Codes: All improvements must meet current International Codes developed by the International Code Council (ICC) and other national, state, and local codes (when applicable) for safe construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6.5.1: Electric Wiring - Materials and equipment shall be Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved and installation shall be in accordance with the National Electric Code.• 6.5.2: Sub-surface wastewater disposal systems shall comply with Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 53-2044 and shall be approved by the local county health department.• 6.5.3: All plans and revisions to plans for development, layout, construction, reconstruction, or alteration of improvements shall be prepared and stamped by a licensed professional engineer or architect registered in the state of Tennessee. Plans will then be presented for review by the Forest Service engineering staff prior to approval by the authorized officer and commencement of any work. (see also Clause II.B. of the Term Special Use Permit for Recreation Residences.) |
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| | <p>6.6 – Signs: Signs are allowed under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.6.1: Signs required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One sign displaying the cabin number is to be prominently placed at the entrance of driveways, gates, or pathways providing the primary ingress/egress to the residence. Such signs or numbers shall be reflective, with 4-6 inch lettering. ○ One sign displaying the cabin number is to be prominently placed on each boat dock or lake zone deck. Such signs or numbers shall be reflective, with 6-10 inch lettering. ○ Signs controlling traffic or otherwise needed for the safety of vehicles or the public. Traffic control signs must meet Department of Transportation standards and be approved by the Forest Service. • 6.6.2: The following types of signs are acceptable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forest Service provided signs indicating the area is under a special use permit or other Forest Service provided sign. ○ Signs displaying the name of the cabin owner or a nickname for the cabin, provided that such nicknames are appropriate for public display and do not contain offensive or explicit words or language. All such signs shall be of a color, material, size, and | <p>6.6 – Signs: Signs are allowed under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.6.1: Signs required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One sign displaying the cabin number is to be prominently placed at the entrance of driveways, gates, or pathways providing the primary ingress/egress to the residence. Such signs or numbers shall be reflective, with 4-6 inch lettering. ○ One sign displaying the cabin number is to be prominently placed on each boat dock or lake zone deck. Such signs or numbers shall be reflective, with 6-10 inch lettering. ○ Signs controlling traffic or otherwise needed for the safety of vehicles or the public. Traffic control signs must meet Department of Transportation standards and be approved by the Forest Service. • 6.6.2: The following types of signs are acceptable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forest Service provided signs indicating the area is under a special use permit or other Forest Service provided sign. ○ Signs displaying the name of the cabin owner or a nickname for the cabin, provided that such nicknames are appropriate for public display and do not contain offensive or explicit words or language. All such signs shall be of a color, material, size, and lettering acceptable to and approved by the |
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| | <p>lettering acceptable to and approved by the authorized officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.6.3: The following types of signs are prohibited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No trespassing signs ○ Private property signs or signs giving the impression that the permitted area is private property ○ Any sign nailed or screwed to a tree ○ Any other sign, unless approved in writing by the authorized officer | <p>authorized officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.6.3: The following types of signs are prohibited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No trespassing signs ○ Private property signs or signs giving the impression that the permitted area is private property ○ Any sign nailed or screwed to a tree ○ Any other sign, unless approved in writing by the authorized officer |
| | <p>6.7 – Burning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.7.1: Burning of woody debris (brush piles) is allowed. The holder must follow rules and regulations established by the Tennessee Division of Forestry. The holder must obtain a burn permit from the Tennessee Division of Forestry and notify the Forest Service Ranger Station prior to burning. • 6.7.2: No other outdoor burning is permitted, besides campfires in fire rings. | <p>6.7 – Burning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.7.1: Burning of woody debris (brush piles) is allowed. The holder must follow rules and regulations established by the Tennessee Division of Forestry. The holder must obtain a burn permit from the Tennessee Division of Forestry and notify the Forest Service Ranger Station prior to burning. • 6.7.2: No other burning is permitted. |

Table 3. Qualitative Comparison of Alternatives

| Resource | Alternative A | Alternative B | Alternative C |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Biological Factors</i> | | | |
| Major Forested Communities | No discernable effects. | No discernable effects. | No discernable effects. |
| Terrestrial Habitat Attributes | No discernable effects. | No discernable effects. | No discernable effects. |
| Aquatic Habitats | No effects | No effects | No effects |
| T&E and Viability Concern | No effects | No effects | No effects |
| Invasive Non Native Plants & Animals | No effects | No effects | No effects |
| <i>Social Factors</i> | | | |
| Scenery and Recreation | Negative Impact | Greatest Positive Impact | Least Positive Impact |
| Heritage Resources | No effects | No effects | No effects |
| Civil Rights | No effects | No effects | No effects |
| <i>Physical Factors</i> | | | |
| Soil and Water | Potential Negative impacts | Positive impacts | Positive impacts |

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Biological Factors

This section discloses effects to biological elements of the environment expected as a result of implementing the Proposed Action or alternatives. The biological environment includes the diversity of plant and animal communities, habitat components, and individual species of concern or interest. Analysis of effects to these elements is organized in this document following the framework used in the RLRMP FEIS (USDA 2004b). Use of this framework is designed to ensure comprehensive consideration of effects to the biological environment. Elements in this framework are listed in Table 4, where they are assessed for their relevance to this project. Only those relevant to the project are analyzed further in this document.

Table 4. Elements of the biological environment, derived from the RLRMP FEIS analysis, their relevance to this project, and whether they will be further analyzed in this document.

| Biological Element | Analyzed Further? | Relevance to this Project |
|---|-------------------|--|
| Major Forested Communities | | |
| Mesic Deciduous Forest | Yes | Mesic deciduous forest occurs in or immediately adjacent to the project area. |
| Spruce-fir Forest | No | None of this habitat type occurs within the project area. |
| Eastern Hemlock and White Pine Forest | Yes | Eastern hemlock and white pine forest occurs in or immediately adjacent to the project area. |
| Oak and Oak-Pine Forest | Yes | Oak and oak-pine forest occurs in or immediately adjacent to the project area. |
| Pine and Pine-Oak Forest | Yes | Pine and pine-oak forest occurs in or immediately adjacent to the project area. |
| Woodlands, Savannas, and Grasslands | No | None of this habitat type occurs within the project area. |
| Rare Communities | | |
| Wetland Communities | No | None of this habitat type occurs within the project area. |
| Barrens, Glades, and Associated Woodlands | No | None of this habitat type occurs within the project area. |
| Carolina Hemlock Forests | No | None of this habitat type occurs within the project area. |
| Table Mountain Pine Forests | No | None of this habitat type occurs within the project area. |
| Basic Mesic Forests | No | None of this habitat type occurs within the project area. |
| Beech Gap Forests | No | None of this habitat type occurs within the project area. |
| Rock Outcrops and Cliffs (includes forested boulder fields) | No | None of this habitat type occurs within the project area. |

Table 4. Elements of the biological environment, derived from the RLRMP FEIS analysis, their relevance to this project, and whether they will be further analyzed in this document.

| Biological Element | Analyzed Further? | Relevance to this Project |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| High Elevation Balds and Meadows | No | None of this habitat type occurs within the project area. |
| Caves and Mines | No | None of this habitat type occurs within the project area. |
| Successional Habitats | | |
| Successional Forested Habitats | No | None of this habitat type occurs in the project area. |
| High Elevation Early Successional Habitats | No | None of this habitat type occurs in the project area. |
| Permanent openings and old fields, Rights-of-way, Improved pastures | No | The proposed project would not affect this habitat type. |
| Forest Interior Birds | No | The affected area is not identified in the RLRMP as an area where edge effect is an issue. |
| Old Growth | No | No old growth forest exists in the project area. |
| Terrestrial Habitat Attributes | | |
| Riparian Habitats | Yes | Lakeshore habitats may be affected. |
| Snags, Dens, and Downed Wood | Yes | Snags, dens, and downed wood exist in the project area. |
| Aquatic Habitats | Yes | Aquatic habitats exist in the project area |
| Threatened and Endangered Species | Yes | Potential effects to T and E species will be analyzed. |
| Demand Species | No | The proposed project would not affect demand species. |
| Migratory Birds | Yes | Migratory bird issues are addressed in Major Forested Communities sections. |
| Invasive Non-Native Plants & Animals | Yes | Potential effects to invasive non-native plants will be analyzed. |
| Species Viability | Yes | Potential effects to species with viability concerns will be analyzed. |
| Forest Health | No | The proposed project would not affect Forest Health. |

The CNF RLRMP selected management indicator species (MIS) as a tool to help indicate effects of management on some elements of this framework (USDA 2004b). A subset of these MIS is selected for consideration in this analysis because their populations or habitats may be affected by the project (Table 5).

Table 5. Forest-level Management Indicator Species derived from the RLRMP FEIS, their relevance to this project, and whether they will be further analyzed in this document.

| Species Name | Purpose | Selected for Project Analysis? | Reasons for Selection/Non-Selection |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Prairie warbler | To help indicate management effects of creating and maintaining early successional forest communities. | No | The project would not create any early successional forest communities. |
| Chestnut-sided warbler | To help indicate management effects of creating and maintaining high elevation early successional forest communities and habitat. | No | There is no high elevation communities associated with the project. |
| Pine warbler | To help indicate effects of management in pine and pine-oak communities. | Yes | Pine and pine oak communities occur in the vicinity of the project, and may be subject to management actions. |
| Pileated woodpecker | To help indicate management effects on snag dependent wildlife species. | Yes | Forests with snags occur in the vicinity of the project, and may be subject to management actions. |
| Acadian flycatcher | To help indicate management effects within mature riparian forest community. | Yes | Riparian forest communities occur in the vicinity of the project, and may be subject to management actions. |
| Scarlet tanager | To help indicate effects of management in xeric oak and oak pine communities. | Yes | Xeric oak and oak pine communities occur in the vicinity of the project, and may be subject to management actions. |
| Ruth's golden aster | To help indicate management effects on the recovery of this T&E plant species. | No | The project would not affect this species or its habitat. |
| Ovenbird | To help indicate management effects of wildlife species dependent upon mature forest interior conditions. | No | The affected area is not identified in the RLRMP as an area where edge effect is an issue. |
| Black bear | To help indicate management effects on meeting hunting demand for this species. | No | Hunting demand for black bear would not be impacted by the project. |
| Hooded warbler | To help indicate effects of management on providing dense understory and midstory structure within mature mesic deciduous forest communities. | Yes | Mesic deciduous communities occur in the vicinity of the project, and may be subject to management actions. |

Existing Condition Major Forested Communities and Associated MIS

Mesic Deciduous Forest

Mesic deciduous forests as defined in the RLRMP include northern hardwood, mixed mesophytic, and bottomland hardwood community types, as well as the dry-mesic oak forest communities. These forest types are characterized by relatively low levels of disturbance, and from a habitat perspective,

their primary value is providing habitat for a variety of species dependent on mid- and late-successional forest stages (USDA 2004b).

Mesic deciduous forests are abundant and well distributed, comprising 283,088 acres (44 percent) on the CNF. The best, most clustered distributions are found at higher elevations of the Tellico Ranger District and Big Frog Mountain, followed by Big Bald, Unaka, Roan, Pond and Holston Mountains and Rogers Ridge. Poorest distributions are found on the pine dominated Starr and Chilhowee Mountains (USDA 2004b).

Hooded Warbler (MIS)

The hooded warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) is a neotropical migrant that is fairly common to common in the Southeast during the breeding season (Hamel 1992). It nests in understory of deciduous forest, especially along streams and ravine edges, and thickets in riverine forests. It is an inhabitant of both young and mature forests but is most abundant in the latter. A dense shrub layer and scant ground cover are important. In North Carolina, it is common in mountain ravines with dense growth of mountain laurel and rhododendron and in bottomland swamps with dense pepperbush and giant cane. This warbler generally favors large tracts of uninterrupted forest, but sometimes nests in forest patches as small as five hectares, probably where these are close to larger forested areas. The nest is placed in sapling or shrub in dense deciduous undergrowth, usually between 0.3 - 1.5 m. Individuals often return to the same area to nest in successive years (males are more likely to do so than females) (Sauer et al. 2005).

North American Breeding Bird Survey data indicate a fairly static population in the Blue Ridge Mountains from 1966-2005 (Sauer et al. 2005). The trend is significantly positive in eastern North America. It has been identified as a MIS for mid-late mesic deciduous forests with canopy gaps and structurally diverse understories. The hooded warbler is common in appropriate habitat on the CNF (USDA 2004b).

Eastern Hemlock and White Pine Forest

Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and white pine (*Pinus strobus*) forests are broadly defined to include those forested communities that are either dominated or co-dominated by eastern hemlock or eastern white pine in the canopy. For the purposes of this analysis, forests with a significant component of eastern hemlock are classified as hemlock forests, even where white pine may be dominant. White pine forests include all other forests where white pine is dominant. This division puts priority on the presence of hemlock as a key habitat component (USDA 2004b).

Eastern hemlock forests typically occur on acidic soils and often have a dense shrub layer composed of ericaceous species. These communities are typically low in herbaceous diversity, but may support rich bryophyte communities. White pine forests occupy similar sites but also may occur on dryer locations, particularly in areas where fire has been suppressed. White pine forests have also been artificially created as timber plantations (USDA 2004b).

The combination of a largely evergreen canopy and a dense midstory in naturally occurring hemlock and white pine forests provide for a variety of benefits. Benefits include shading and cooling of riparian systems, thermal cover for wildlife, and nesting and foraging habitat for several species of neotropical migrant birds dependent upon the layered canopy structure and understory thickets. There is some evidence that hemlock-white pine forests provide necessary habitat components for the long-term conservation of red crossbills (USDA 2004b).

Eastern hemlock forests may also be important refugia for species typically adapted to higher elevations. Red-breasted nuthatches, winter wrens, and golden-crowned kinglets are found in late

successional hemlock forests down to elevations of 2,000 feet. Several species of rare bryophytes that are known to occur primarily within the spruce/fir zone are also found at lower elevations in humid gorges often under a canopy that includes eastern hemlock (USDA 2004b). The current amount and distribution of mature eastern hemlock forests is threatened by the recent emergence of the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) in the southern Appalachians. First identified in the eastern U.S. near Richmond, VA in the early 1950's, this exotic pest has recently spread into the southern Appalachians and threatens to spread throughout the range causing mortality within five years after initial infestation (SAMAB 1996).

On the CNF, eastern hemlock forests are found primarily in association with north facing coves and slopes and riparian systems. Years of fire suppression have allowed individual hemlocks and white pine to creep upslope onto more xeric slopes and ridges where they would not likely exist under a natural fire regime. Based upon data from the FEIS for the RLRMP, eastern hemlock and white pine forests occupy 52,072 acres on the CNF (USDA 2004b).

Two key habitat variables are selected as management indicators to monitor the condition of eastern hemlock and white pine forest: the number of acres of hemlock forests infested with HWA and the number of acres of white pine plantations restored to diverse native communities; both of which are tracked annually (USDA 2004b).

Oak and Oak-Pine Forest

Oak dominated forests covered under this section include dry to mesic oak and oak-pine forests. Dry-mesic oak forests vary greatly in their species composition due to their wide distribution. The major species include chestnut oak (*Quercus montana*), northern red oak (*Q. rubra*), black oak (*Q. velutina*), white oak (*Q. alba*), and scarlet oak (*Q. coccinea*). The dry to mesic oak-pine forests considered here are oak-dominated forests containing a significant pine component. Predominant pine species include white pine, shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*), Virginia pine (*P. virginiana*), and loblolly pine (*P. taeda*). In the southern U.S., acres of oak-hickory and oak-pine forests have increased over the last 50 years. Oak and oak-pine forests are common throughout the South, comprising over half of the timberland of the region as a whole. Oak-hickory forests are the dominant forest type in the Southern Appalachian Ecoregion (USDA 2004b).

Oak forests are abundant on the CNF, comprising 251,638 acres or 36 percent of the CNF acreage. These forests are very well distributed within the northern portion of the CNF. Oak forests are less evenly distributed on the southern CNF, especially along the pine-dominated lower elevations including Starr Mountain and the lower Citico Creek drainage; and in the highest elevations, where mesic deciduous forest types predominate (USDA 2004b).

Several management indicators have been identified for assessing effects to oak and oak-pine forest communities. These indicators include both MIS and key habitat variables. Because of their wide distribution across moisture gradients, mid- and late-successional oak and oak-pine forests support a wide variety of species. More xeric oak forests support a slightly different mix of species due to their more open condition. To represent this upland oak community, the scarlet tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) is selected as an MIS (USDA 2004b). This species is most abundant in upland mature deciduous forest (Hamel 1992).

Scarlet Tanager (MIS)

The breeding range of scarlet tanager includes eastern North Dakota and southeastern Manitoba across southern Canada and northern U.S. to New Brunswick and central Maine, south to central Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, northern Alabama, northern Georgia, northwestern South

Carolina, western North Carolina, central Virginia, and Maryland (NatureServe 2008). Habitat on breeding grounds is deciduous forest and mature deciduous woodland, including deciduous and mixed swamp and floodplain forests and rich moist upland forests. The scarlet tanager prefers oak trees for nesting. They nest less frequently in mixed forest and are most common in areas with a relatively closed canopy, a dense understory with a high diversity of shrubs, and scant ground cover. They are able to breed successfully in relatively small patches of forest. Tanagers also sometimes nests in wooded parks, orchards, and large shade trees of suburbs. They are known to breed in various forest stages but are most abundant in mature forest, but according to some sources, they prefer pole stands (USDA 2004b). North American Breeding Bird Survey data indicate a stable population in the Eastern U.S. from 1966-2005, but a declining trend in the Blue Ridge Mountains in the same time period (Sauer et al. 2005).

Pine and Pine-Oak Forest

Pine dominated forests covered in this section include all “Southern Yellow Pine” forest types with various mixtures of hardwood species occurring as minor components. These forests occur on a variety of landforms at a wide range of elevations. Historically, in the Blue Ridge Physiographic Province, these communities occupied areas that were subject to natural fire regimes and typically occurred on ridges and slopes with southern exposures. However, due to a combination of previous land use, fire exclusion, and intensive forestry (plantations), many pine species have expanded beyond their natural range and today, pine-dominated communities can be found on virtually all landforms and aspects. Based upon data from the FEIS for the RLRMP, pine and pine-oak forests occupy 140,872 acres on the CNF (USDA 2004b).

Pine Warbler (MIS)

The pine warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) is a short-distance migrant and summer resident that occurs primarily at elevations below 3,500 feet (NatureServe 2008). It is apparently more abundant on the southern districts of the CNF. Based on 1992-1993 point count data collected on the Tellico Ranger District, this species is not a predominant component of any community type, but was detected in yellow pine forest types across all successional stages. Point count data collected for this species from 1996-2002 on the Tellico and Ocoee/Hiwassee Ranger Districts, indicates 88% of pine warbler observations were in conifer forests, 17% were in early successional vegetation, 54% were in mid successional, and 29% were in late successional. The overall regional population trend (Blue Ridge Mountains) for 1966-2005 is a slow and slight decrease (Figure 1).

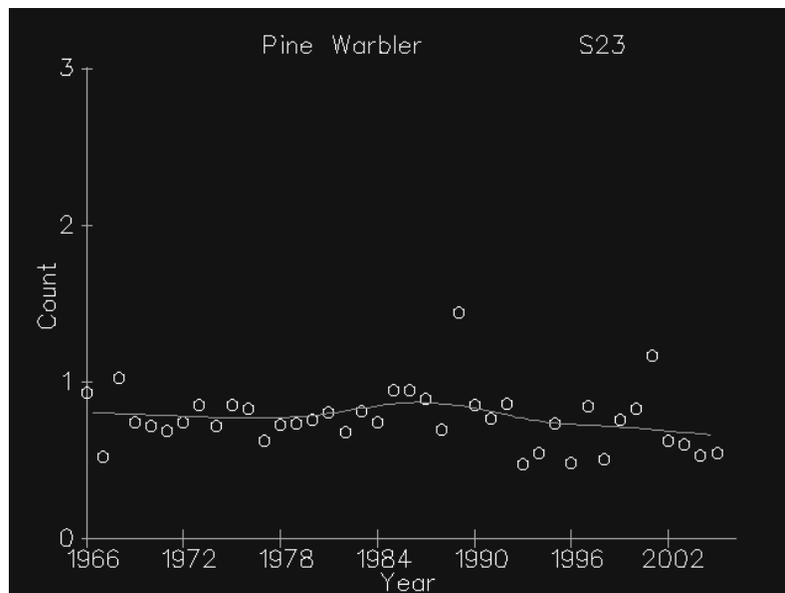


Figure 1. Breeding Bird Survey trend data for Pine Warbler, Blue Ridge Mountain region (Sauer et al. 2005).

Direct and Indirect Effects Major Forested Communities and Associated MIS

Alternative A (No Action)

Under Alternative A, no changes to the existing situation would occur. Recreation residences would continue to be managed under the current special-use permits and Camp Cherokee expansions would be denied. Under these permits the existing footprint of each residence is allowed to reach a maximum size of 1,700 square feet. The current difference between the existing footprint of each residence and the maximum expansion, totaled across all residences, is approximately 0.3 acres, thus any individual expansion would be quite small. Consequently, any impacts to major forested communities and associated MIS would be extremely small.

Individual expansions would be analyzed on a case by case basis following permit clauses and the RLRMP. Based upon the above information, implementation of Alternative A would have little to no effect on major forested communities and associated MIS.

Alternatives B (Proposed Action) and C

Alternatives B and C would implement variations of the Revised Recreation Standards & Guidelines and would authorize expansions at Camp Cherokee from 44 to 58 acres. Under the existing recreation residences permits the existing footprint of each residence is allowed to reach a maximum size of 1,700 square feet. The Revised Recreation Standards & Guidelines would allow expansion to 2,100 square feet. A calculation of the difference between the allowed footprint expansion of each recreation residence under the current permits and the possible maximum expansion under the Revised Recreation Standards & Guidelines yields slightly less than 0.5 acres of possible new ground disturbance combined for all properties under Alternatives B and C. Recreation residences may be approved to create a 20-foot wide corridor to allow an improved view of the lake. The impact of this activity would likely only involve the removal of a few trees or tree branches. The maximum impact, combining potential recreation residence and Camp Cherokee activities, under Alternatives B and C would total 14.5 acres. Consequently, any impacts to major forested communities and associated MIS would be extremely small.

Individual expansions would be analyzed on a case by case basis following permit clauses and the RLRMP. Based upon the above information, implementation of Alternative B or C would have little to no effect on major forested communities and associated MIS.

Cumulative Effects Major Forested Communities and Associated MIS

All Alternatives

Cumulative effects analysis is based on the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities in the general project area in addition to the proposed action. The following past, present and reasonably foreseeable activities will be considered: proposed project activities, prescribed burning, timber harvests, recreational activities, and natural events. These activities may have some potential impacts within or adjacent to the project area.

Prescribed burning is generally beneficial for mesic deciduous forest, oak and oak-pine forest, and pine and pine-oak forest. Controlled fire reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfire, reduces invasive non-native plant species, suppresses shade tolerant species, stimulates oak regeneration, and releases nutrients into the soil. Eastern hemlock forests are found primarily in association with north facing coves and slopes and riparian systems. Years of fire suppression have allowed individual hemlocks and white pine to creep upslope onto more xeric slopes and ridges where they would not likely exist under a natural fire regime. Prescribed fire can reduce white pine density and the continued increase in this forest type in the absence of a natural fire regime.

Prescribed burning reduces dense understory in some areas, resulting in habitat that is less attractive to the MIS hooded warbler and scarlet tanager. However, with understory sprouting that typically occurs after a prescribed burn, the area would provide better habitat within a year or two. Prescribed burning is implemented on a spatial and temporal rotation, the result is that forest understory over a large area would be in different stages of regrowth.

Past, present and reasonably foreseeable timber harvest activities within the general project area are so minimal as to have almost no cumulative effects on major forested communities and associated MIS.

Considerable recreational activities do occur within the general project area; however the impacts from these activities on major forested communities and associated MIS are minimal and have almost no cumulative effects.

Natural events may have some effect on habitat in the general project area. The southern pine beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) (SPB) outbreak negatively impacted some pine forests through unnaturally high mortality. White pine and oak forests likely have benefited through increased reproduction resulting from increased sunlight on the forest floor. The SPB outbreak likely displaced pine warblers through habitat loss; however as pine forests recover pine warbler numbers will increase in these habitats. Hooded warblers and scarlet tanagers have probably benefited when sunlight from the increased canopy openings caused a flush of new and dense undergrowth.

The recent emergence of the HWA threatens the future of eastern hemlock forests, despite protection and restoration objectives given in the RLRMP. The reduction or elimination of hemlock forests may affect hooded warblers by decreasing nesting sites; however foraging sites would increase by the increase in sunlight causing new growth in the understory. The forest community and associated wildlife as a whole would likely be affected by the loss of this component. However the specific effects are not known at this time. The loss of the hemlock is a new development and effects will have to be assessed during and after it occurs due to the complexities of the systems involved.

Insects and diseases such as gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) and oak decline are expected to have an overall negative effect on oak forests in the future (SAMAB 1996). Several gypsy moth infestations have been detected in the CNF's northeastern counties, and spread of the infestation is expected to expand throughout the CNF by 2020. Many of the older xeric oak forests are experiencing oak decline. The greatest impact of oak decline would be immediately behind the advancing front of gypsy moth due to repeated severe defoliations. As existing oak stands grow older, susceptibility would increase. Although oaks would not be eliminated from affected areas, oak abundance and diversity would be reduced. On both NFS and private lands, the future of oak forests would largely depend on management activities such as thinning and burning that encourage oak reproduction to offset the impacts of these insects and diseases. Effects on associated MIS would be dependent on the severity of impacts on the oak forest habitats.

Impacts associated with natural events such as wind-throw and wildfire may have some effect on habitat and associated MIS; however the magnitude and timing are such that they are not considered to be of any significance.

Existing Condition Terrestrial Riparian Habitats and Associated MIS

Terrestrial riparian habitats encompass the transition area between aquatic systems and upland terrestrial systems. These areas often provide a number of critical functions for associated species. Riparian habitats ideally include a mosaic of native plant and animal communities and successional stages. With the exception of seven residences on the Tellico Ranger District, most of the recreation residences and Camp Cherokee are located on or near Parksville Lake which is a reservoir managed by the TVA. Most natural water bodies have zones of riparian vegetation varying from herbaceous plant communities immediately adjacent to the water, to riparian forests that extend to the extent of the water's influence. Due to fluctuating water levels in Parksville lake, there is very little intact riparian habitat along the lakeshore, and in most cases, vegetation typical of drier upland plant communities can be found within a few feet of the shoreline. The Acadian flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) was selected as a MIS for terrestrial riparian habitats (USDA 2004b).

Acadian Flycatcher (MIS)

Breeding range of the Acadian flycatcher includes southeastern South Dakota east across southern Great Lakes region to southern New England, south to southern Texas, Gulf Coast, and central Florida, west to central Kansas; and in Canada restricted to southwestern Ontario (NatureServe 2008). The highest nesting densities were in the Cumberland Plateau and in Virginia and West Virginia. Key habitat requirements are moist deciduous forests with a moderate understory, generally near a stream (Hamel 1992). Humid deciduous forest (primarily mature), woodlands, shaded ravines, floodplain forest, river swamps, hammocks and cypress bays of the South, thickets, second growth, and plantations are used for nesting and breeding. Acadian flycatchers require a high dense canopy and an open understory. These birds tend to be scarce or absent in small forest tracts, unless the tract is near a larger forested area (NatureServe 2008). North American Breeding Bird Survey data indicate a stable population in the Eastern U.S. from 1966-2005, but a declining trend in the Blue Ridge Mountains in the same time period (Sauer et al. 2005).

Direct and Indirect Effects Terrestrial Riparian Habitats and Associated MIS

Alternative A (No Action)

Under Alternative A, no changes to the existing situation would occur. Recreation residences would continue to be managed under the current special-use permits and Camp Cherokee expansions would be denied. Under these permits the existing footprint of each residence is allowed to reach a

maximum size of 1,700 square feet. The current difference between the existing footprint of each residence and the maximum expansion is approximately 0.3 acres totaled across all residences, thus any individual expansion would be quite small. Individual expansions would be analyzed on a case by case basis following permit clauses and the RLRMP. The RLRMP recognizes the value of terrestrial riparian communities on the landscape and provides for their protection. Standard RX11-8 specifically addresses appropriate recreational use within the riparian corridor. Based upon the above information, implementation of Alternative A would have little to no effect on terrestrial riparian communities; therefore no direct or indirect effects to Acadian flycatchers would be expected.

Alternatives B (Proposed Action) and C

Alternatives B and C all would implement variations of the Revised Recreation Residence Standards & Guidelines and would authorize expansions at Camp Cherokee from 44 to 58 acres. These alternatives include some reductions in structures located in the riparian zone and are the same in regards to manipulation of vegetation in the riparian zone. A 20 foot wide corridor may be approved to allow the recreation residence an improved view of the lake. At the highest level of impact this would likely only involve the removal of a few trees or tree branches and would have little to no effect on riparian habitat. Under the existing recreation residences permits the existing footprint of each residence is allowed to reach a maximum size of 1,700 square feet. The Revised Recreation Residence Standards & Guidelines would allow expansion to 2,100 square feet. A calculation of the difference between the allowed footprint expansion of each recreation residence under the current permits and the possible expansion under the Revised Recreation Residence Standards & Guidelines yields approximately 0.5 acres of possible new ground disturbance combined for all properties under Alternatives B and C. The maximum impact, combining potential recreation residence and Camp Cherokee activities, under Alternatives B and C would total approximately 14.5 acres. Of that area, only a small fraction would be in the riparian zone and thus would have little to no effect on terrestrial riparian habitats. Consequently no direct or indirect effects to Acadian flycatchers would be expected.

Cumulative Effects Terrestrial Riparian Habitats and Associated MIS

All Alternatives

Cumulative effects analysis is based on the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities in the general project area in addition to the proposed action. The following past, present and reasonably foreseeable activities will be considered: proposed project activities, prescribed burning, timber harvests, recreational activities, and natural events. These activities may have some potential impacts within or adjacent to the project area.

The RLRMP recognizes the value of terrestrial riparian communities on the landscape and provides for their protection during prescribed burning, timber harvests and recreational activities. Prescribed fire is intentionally minimized in riparian areas. Standard RX11 specifically addresses appropriate activities within the riparian corridor (USDA 2004a). The proposed Revised Recreation Residence Standards & Guidelines were designed to further enhance lakeshore restoration and visual quality and thus may benefit terrestrial riparian communities in the long-term. Any cumulative effects on terrestrial riparian habitats from the implementation of the alternatives are expected to be positive. Consequently, no negative cumulative effects to Acadian flycatchers would be expected.

Existing Condition Snags, Dens, and Downed Wood and Associated MIS

Large woody debris (including branches, large logs, stumps, and root wads) provide an important habitat component in both aquatic and terrestrial areas. It is important both structurally and as a

source of energy. Large snags provide birds with nesting and feeding sites, singing perches, and as lookout posts for predators and prey (USDA 2004b). Bats roost and produce maternity colonies under exfoliating bark. Amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, and invertebrates utilize woody debris as cover. Many species use snags, logs, and stumps as den sites. Downed wood and logs are used for drumming by grouse to attract mates. Turtles and snakes use logs in streams and overhanging branches for basking and sunning. Large woody debris in riparian areas is used as cover by amphibians, insects, and other invertebrates, and small mammals. Small mammals utilize logs as travel ways. Fungi and other decomposers of woody debris are key components of food webs. Rotting wood tends to absorb moisture during wet periods and release it in dry periods thus helping to maintain a cooler microclimate (USDA 2004b).

Snag availability is currently not considered a limiting factor on the CNF. Snag availability is influenced by a variety of factors including tree species, age, slope, aspect, and health allowing for lots of variability within the landscape. It is estimated that there are about 7 to 8 snags per acre across the forest and the recent SPB outbreak has resulted in a sharp increase in snag availability over the past several years. Unless another disease outbreak occurs, a gradual decline toward pre-SPB outbreak levels should be expected over the next several years as these trees decay and fall to the ground. Snag availability is expected to exhibit a gradually increasing long-term trend as the average age of the forest continues to increase (USDA 2004b). With the provisions included under all alternatives in the RLRMP, existing snags, downed wood, and den trees would be well maintained on NFS land (USDA 2004a).

Pileated Woodpecker (MIS)

The pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) utilizes many forest communities, but generally is limited to mature coniferous, deciduous, and mixed forests with large, dead trees (DeGraaf et al. 1991). Highest densities occur in mixed pine-hardwood sawtimber. It is a locally common permanent resident of Tennessee found in woodlands with trees large enough for nesting and foraging. It is typically considered a forest interior species but will readily fly across openings and is somewhat tolerant of forest fragmentation. Its occurrence in an area is more dependent on regional forested area rather than individual forested tracts. Tennessee Christmas bird counts show an increase in pileated numbers (Nicholson 1997). The overall regional population trend (Blue Ridge Mountains) for 1966-2005 indicates a steady increase (Figure 2).

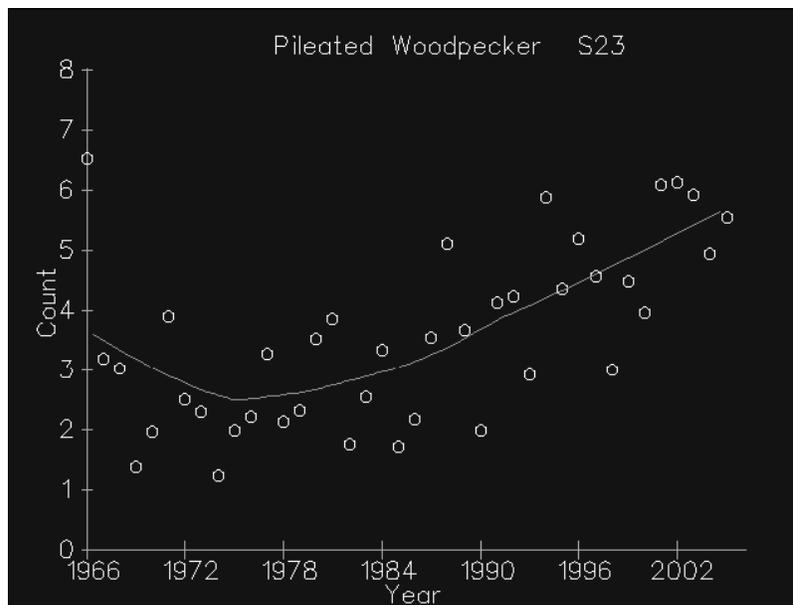


Figure 2. Population trends for pileated woodpecker in the Blue Ridge Mountains, 1966-2005 (Sauer et al. 2005).

Direct and Indirect Effects Snags, Dens, and Downed Wood and Associated MIS

Alternative A (No Action)

Under Alternative A, no changes to the existing situation would occur. Recreation residences would continue to be managed under the current special-use permits and Camp Cherokee expansions would be denied. Under these permits the existing footprint of each residence is allowed to reach a maximum size of 1,700 square feet. The current difference between the existing footprint of each residence and the maximum expansion is approximately 0.3 acres totaled across all residences, thus any individual expansion would be quite small. Individual expansions would be analyzed on a case by case basis following permit clauses and the RLRMP. This alternative would have no effect to snags, dens, and downed wood. The forest would continue to age, causing an increase in those elements. There would be no effect to pileated woodpeckers.

Alternatives B (Proposed Action) and C

Alternatives B and C all would implement variations of the Revised Recreation Residence Standards & Guidelines and would authorize expansions at Camp Cherokee from 44 to 58 acres. A 20 foot wide corridor may be approved to allow the recreation residence an improved view of the lake. At the highest level of impact this would likely only involve the removal of a few trees or tree branches. Under the existing recreation residences permits the existing footprint of each residence is allowed to reach a maximum size of 1,700 square feet. The Revised Recreation Residence Standards & Guidelines would allow expansion to 2,100 square feet. A calculation of the difference between the allowed footprint expansion of each recreation residence under the current permits and the possible expansion under the Revised Recreation Residence Standards & Guidelines yields approximately 0.5 acres of possible new ground disturbance combined for all properties under Alternatives B and C. The maximum impact, combining potential recreation residence and Camp Cherokee activities, under Alternatives B and C would total approximately 14.5 acres. Consequently, any impacts to snags, dens, and downed wood would be relatively small.

Individual recreation residence expansions would be analyzed on a case by case basis following permit clauses and the RLRMP. Based upon the above information, implementation of Alternative B or C would have little to no effect on snags, dens, and downed wood. Consequently, no negative effects to pileated woodpeckers would be expected.

Cumulative Effects Snags, Dens, and Downed Wood and Associated MIS

All Alternatives

Cumulative effects analysis is based on the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities in the general project area in addition to the proposed action. The following past, present and reasonably foreseeable activities will be considered: proposed project activities, prescribed burning, timber harvests, recreational activities, and natural events. These activities may have some potential impacts within or adjacent to the project area.

Prescribed burning tends to reduce downed wood, but creates snags and den trees. Timber harvests may also provide snags and downed wood but would also remove some mature trees. However, past, present and reasonably foreseeable timber harvest activities within the general project area are so minimal as to have almost no cumulative effects. Recreational activities would not affect this habitat component. Natural events such as SPB, HWA, wind-throw, and wildfire would increase snags, dens and downed wood overall and would benefit pileated woodpeckers. Based upon the above information, cumulative effects are expected to be minimal.

Existing Condition Aquatic Habitats

The Tellico River and Parksville Lake are the waterways associated with the Revised Recreation Residence Standards & Guidelines and Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan. These areas are within the Blue Ridge Province. Based on the FEIS for the RLRMP (USDA 2004b) the Little Tennessee River Watershed (Tellico River) is in the best condition of all 24 watersheds. Sediment, temperature, and altered stream flow all rated excellent while point source pollution has an acceptable rating of average. None of the other water quality factors pose a risk to aquatic species viability. Parksville Lake is in the Lower Ocoee River Watershed which has an average condition rating. Only sedimentation was identified as a habitat stressor (USDA 2004b).

The analysis area contains the Tellico River (20 miles) and Parksville Lake (1,900 acres). No other waters (perennial, intermittent or ephemeral streams or ponds) occur near enough to these areas to be affected by the proposed activities. The aquatic habitat in Parksville Lake is managed by the TVA; Forest Service jurisdiction is above the high water mark. Consequently, the Forest Service does not conduct surveys nor maintain records of aquatic species in Parksville Lake. The Tellico River is divided into six reaches (Table 6) based on its physical characteristics and TWRA fish management laws.

Table 6. Tellico River Reaches, Cherokee National Forest, Tennessee.

| Stream Name | Reach | Low Elev | Miles | %Gradient | Order | Date Last Surveyed | No. of Fish Species |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tellico River | 1 | 870 | 7.1 | 0.90 | 7 | 10/3/2007 | 41 |
| Tellico River | 2 | 1200 | 1.8 | 1.90 | 7 | 10/6/1987 | 18 |
| Tellico River | 3 | 1380 | 3.5 | 1.30 | 6 | 10/23/1992 | 9 |
| Tellico River | 4 | 1620 | 2.93 | 1.60 | 6 | 10/5/2006 | 10 |
| Tellico River | 5 | 1900 | 1.6 | 2.40 | 6 | 10/5/2006 | 8 |
| Tellico River | 6 | 2100 | 3 | 3.00 | 6 | 10/5/2006 | 9 |

A total of 47 species of fish have been documented from the Tellico River (Table 7). Eight are managed as game species (includes two desirable exotics); and the remaining fish species are all natives except two introduced undesirable fish species. Two species of Sensitive salamanders with aquatic larval stages occur in the area: Santeetlah dusky salamander (*Desmognathus santeetlah*) and Junaluska salamander (*Eurycea junaluska*). Other aquatic species present in this area, include: amphibians, reptiles, insects, crayfish, and snails. No known game or rare species from these taxa occur here. However, habitat does exist for seven Sensitive aquatic insects: Helma's net-spinning caddisfly (*Cheumatopsyche helma*), Cherokee clubtail (*Gomphus consanguis*), Green-faced clubtail (*Gomphus viridifrons*), Mountain river cruiser (*Macromia margarita*), Allegheny snaketail (*Ophiogomphus alleghaniensis*), Edmund's snaketail (*Ophiogomphus edmundo*) and Appalachian snaketail (*Ophiogomphus incurvatus*).

Table 7. The total number of fish populations in the Tellico River and their relative abundance across the CNF, Tennessee (USDA 2008a).

| Species | Populations | | Status | Forest Viability Goal |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Tellico River | Forest Wide | | |
| Citico darter | 1 | 2 | Endangered | Protect/Restore |
| smoky madtom | 1 | 2 | Endangered | Protect/Restore |
| spotfin chub | 1 | 1 | Threatened | Protect/Restore |
| yellowfin madtom | 1 | 2 | Threatened | Protect/Restore |
| wounded darter | 1 | 3 | Sensitive, On | Protect/Restore |
| mountain madtom | 1 | 1 | Locally Rare | Protect/Restore |
| silver shiner | 1 | 3 | Locally Rare | Protect/Restore |
| stargazing minnow | 1 | 3 | Locally Rare | Protect/Restore |
| bluegill | 1 | 58 | Game | Enhance |
| brook trout | 1 | 153 | Game | Enhance |
| largemouth bass | 1 | 24 | Game | Enhance |
| rock bass | 3 | 77 | Game | Enhance |
| smallmouth bass | 2 | 56 | Game | Enhance |
| spotted bass | 1 | 18 | Game | Enhance |
| brown trout | 3 | 98 | Introduced/Desirable | Enhance |
| rainbow trout | 4 | 272 | Introduced/Desirable | Enhance |
| banded darter | 2 | 17 | Native | Maintain |
| banded sculpin | 1 | 85 | Native | Maintain |
| bigeye chub | 1 | 22 | Native | Maintain |
| black redhorse | 1 | 28 | Native | Maintain |
| blueside darter | 1 | 5 | Native | Maintain |
| central stoneroller | 6 | 132 | Native | Maintain |
| channel catfish | 1 | 7 | Native | Maintain |
| creek chub | 4 | 228 | Native | Maintain |
| fantail darter | 2 | 33 | Native | Maintain |
| gilt darter | 2 | 9 | Native | Maintain |
| golden redhorse | 1 | 12 | Native | Maintain |
| greenside darter | 2 | 39 | Native | Maintain |
| logperch | 2 | 15 | Native | Maintain |
| northern hogsucker | 6 | 111 | Native | Maintain |

Table 7. The total number of fish populations in the Tellico River and their relative abundance across the CNF, Tennessee (USDA 2008a).

| Species | Populations | | Status | Forest Viability Goal |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Tellico River | Forest Wide | | |
| northern studfish | 1 | 8 | Native | Maintain |
| redline darter | 2 | 48 | Native | Maintain |
| river chub | 6 | 71 | Native | Maintain |
| river redhorse | 1 | 7 | Native | Maintain |
| rosyside dace | 4 | 16 | Native | Maintain |
| saffron shiner | 2 | 26 | Native | Maintain |
| striped shiner | 1 | 36 | Native | Maintain |
| tangerine darter | 2 | 11 | Native | Maintain |
| telescope shiner | 2 | 31 | Native | Maintain |
| Tennessee darter | 2 | 56 | Native | Maintain |
| Tennessee shiner | 2 | 58 | Native | Maintain |
| warpaint shiner | 3 | 82 | Native | Maintain |
| western blacknose dace | 4 | 293 | Native | Maintain |
| whitetail shiner | 2 | 39 | Native | Maintain |
| yellow bullhead | 1 | 14 | Native | Maintain |
| carp | 1 | 5 | Introduced/Undesirable | None |
| yellow perch | 1 | 11 | Introduced/Undesirable | None |

Direct and Indirect Effects Aquatic Habitats

Alternative A (No Action)

Under Alternative A, no changes to the existing situation would occur. Recreation residences would continue to be managed under the current special-use permits and Camp Cherokee expansions would be denied. Under these permits the existing footprint of each residence is allowed to reach a maximum size of 1,700 square feet. The current difference between the existing footprint of each residence and the maximum expansion is approximately 0.3 acres totaled across all residences, thus any individual expansion would be quite small. Individual expansions would be analyzed on a case by case basis following permit clauses and the RLRMP.

Activities authorized under Alternative A would employ filter strips and/or silt fencing between ground disturbance and water bodies (Forest Wide Standards; FW-3, FW-6, FW-7, FW-9, and FW-10). Vegetation management within defined riparian corridors would emphasize maintenance of large trees for woody debris recruitment as the desired condition (MP 11 Standards; RX11-1, RX11-8, RX11-29, RX11-30, RX11-31, and RX11-32). Herbicides may be used for woody vegetation control. Forest Wide Standards (FW-14, FW-15, and FW-16) would be followed during implementation (USDA 2004a).

Implementation of Alternative A with full consideration of these standards would result in no increase of direct or indirect effects to aquatic habitats or species from these management activities (USDA 2004b).

Alternatives B (Proposed Action), and C

Alternatives B and C do not pose any different degrees of threat to the aquatic environments. These alternatives would require permits to be administered using the terms of the most current version of the special-use permit; authorize Residence 14 to be either a rental unit or continue as a recreation residence; and approve the Master Plan for Camp Cherokee.

Activities authorized under Alternative B or C would employ filter strips and/or silt fencing between ground disturbance and water bodies (Forest Wide Standards; FW-3, FW-6, FW-7, FW-9, and FW-10). Vegetation management within defined riparian corridors would emphasize maintenance of large trees for woody debris recruitment as the desired condition (MP 11 Standards-RX11-1, RX11-8, RX11-29, RX11-30, RX11-31, and RX11-32). Herbicides may be used for woody vegetation control. Forest Wide Standards (FW-14, FW-15, and FW-16) would be followed during implementation (USDA 2004b).

Implementation of Alternative B or C with full consideration of these standards would result in no increase of direct or indirect effects to aquatic habitats or species from these management activities (USDA 2004b).

Cumulative Effects Aquatic Habitats

All Alternatives

All Alternatives would allow an extremely small amount of new ground disturbance (i.e., 0.3 – 14.5 acres total). Other activities in the area including hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and OHV use may be contributing sediment to streams. Sediment accumulation is a problem in the Ocoee River watershed. Past and present activities in conjunction with any of the alternatives could continue to have an adverse cumulative effect on the aquatic habitats and species. Activities, on NFS lands, that are reasonably foreseeable would be implemented under the standards for protecting water bodies listed in the RLRMP (USDA 2004a). Implemented in conjunction with any of the alternatives, sedimentation could continue to have an adverse cumulative effect on the aquatic habitats and species. Reasonably foreseeable activities that occur on private lands could have a negative effect on the aquatic systems regardless of which alternative is selected; the Forest Service cannot control those actions.

Activities, on NFS lands, that are reasonably foreseeable would be implemented under the standards for protecting bodies of water listed in the RLRMP for the CNF (USDA 2004a). Implemented in conjunction with any of these alternatives, would not increase the adverse cumulative effects on the aquatic habitats and species.

Existing Condition Threatened and Endangered Species

Effects to Federally-listed Threatened and Endangered species are analyzed in detail in the Biological Evaluation (Appendix B) for this project. No Federally-listed Threatened or Endangered vascular or non-vascular plant species were found during botanical surveys for this project. Four Federally-listed aquatic species occur in the Tellico River. This includes two Threatened species, the spotfin chub (*Erimonax monachus*) and yellowfin madtom (*Noturus flavipinnis*); and two Endangered species, the Citico darter (*Etheostoma sitikuens*) and smoky madtom (*Noturus baileyi*). All four of these species represent introduced populations and are considered non-essential for the recovery of these species. All are reproducing successfully in the Tellico River and are expected to expand their occupied habitat. Riparian area mitigations would exclude project impacts to aquatic and riparian dependent species. Therefore, no impacts to these species from project activities are expected to occur. The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Federally-listed as Endangered, has the

potential to occur in the project area. Effects to this species are analyzed in detail in the Biological Evaluation (Appendix B) for this project, and are summarized below.

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Effects Threatened and Endangered Species

All Alternatives

Indiana bat

No suitable hibernacula (caves, mines, old buildings) are known to occur within the project area. However, bats may forage or roost in trees in the project area. The maximum amount of habitat disturbed under all Alternatives would be approximately 15 acres. That disturbance would occur likely in 0.5 acre or less increments over a period of many years if at all. In rare circumstances, construction activities may require the removal of a potential bat roost tree, however, during the special-use permitting process, potential bat roost trees would be identified and efforts made to prevent removing these trees between 15 April and 15 August. All proposed improvement and construction activities would be subject to the guidelines of the special-use permitting process. All activities would be reviewed and mitigations implemented to conform to RLRMP standards and guidelines. This would avoid potential injury to non-volant young bats. Cumulative effects are discussed in detail in the Biological Evaluation (Appendix F).

The Alternatives would have “no effect” on Indiana bat.

No other Threatened, Endangered or Proposed species that occur on the CNF would be affected. Formal consultation with the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service is not required.

Existing Condition Invasive Non-native Plants and Animals

A multitude of invasive, non-native plants threaten the integrity of native ecosystems in the southern Appalachian area. These include, but are not limited to, species such as kudzu, privet, Japanese honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and Nepal grass. The Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAMAB 1996) provides a summary of the major threats from invasive plant species.

Although not mentioned in the Southern Appalachian Assessment, the wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) is another example of non-native species that is negatively affecting certain habitats (beech forests and wetlands) in the southern Appalachians (USDA 2004b). Wild boars were introduced into the southern Appalachian Mountains in the early 1900's. Originally imported for hunting, they eventually escaped from their enclosed hunting reserves in North Carolina and over time have become a naturalized component of the area's fauna (USDA 2004b). Management of this species is somewhat controversial in that some hunters desire it as a major game species, yet its impacts to the natural environment must be considered.

On the CNF, the following non-native invasive plant species are tracked through project level inventories: Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), small carpetgrass (*Arthraxon hispidus*), autumn olive (*Eleagnus umbellata*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*), privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Nepal grass (*Microstegium vimineum*), princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*), kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*), and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). While other invasive plant species may occur with scattered distributions on the CNF, these species are recognized as having significant occurrences with a high potential for impacts to native communities on the CNF.

In 1999 the Southern Region released a Noxious Weed Management Strategy that outlined five emphasis areas, 1) Prevention and Education, 2) Control, 3) Inventory, Mapping, and Monitoring, 4) Research, and 5) Administration and Planning. This was followed in 2001 with the development of

the Regional Forester's Invasive Exotic Plant Species list. The RLRMP includes numerous goals, objectives, and standards to address the potential impacts of non-native invasive species. These include control efforts and maintenance and restoration of native species. Table 8 contains a list of non-native invasive plant species that were documented during botanical surveys of the project area.

Table 8. Non-native invasive plant species noted during the botanical surveys.

| Scientific Name | Common name | General Location |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Albizia julibrissin</i> | mimosa | Ocoee |
| <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> | Oriental bittersweet | Ocoee |
| <i>Dioscorea batatas</i> | Chinese yam | Ocoee |
| <i>Eleagnus umbellata</i> | autumn olive | Camp Cherokee, Tellico |
| <i>Euonymus alatus</i> | Winged burning bush | Ocoee |
| <i>Hedera helix</i> | English ivy | Ocoee, Tellico |
| <i>Lespedeza cuneata</i> | sericiea lespedeza | Ocoee |
| <i>Ligustrum sinense</i> | privet | Camp Cherokee, Ocoee, Tellico |
| <i>Lonicera japonica</i> | Japanese honeysuckle | Ocoee |
| <i>Microstegium vimineum</i> | Nepal grass | Camp Cherokee, Ocoee, Tellico |
| <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> | Chinese silver grass | Ocoee |
| <i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> | princess tree | Ocoee |
| <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> | Japanese knotweed | Ocoee |
| <i>Pueraria Montana</i> | kudzu | Ocoee |
| <i>Rosa multiflora</i> | multiflora rose | Ocoee |
| <i>Vinca minor</i> | periwinkle | Ocoee |

Specific occurrences that were noted include: *Albizia julibrissin* (Ocoee Residences # 5 & 6), *Eleagnus umbellata* (Tellico Residence # 1), *Euonymus alatus* (Ocoee Residence # 10), *Hedera helix* (Ocoee Residences # 27 & 28, Tellico Residences # 2 & 4), *Ligustrum sinense* (Ocoee Residence # 10), *Miscanthus sinensis* (Ocoee Residence # 50), *Paulownia tomentosa* (Ocoee Residence # 63), *Polygonum cuspidatum* (Ocoee Residence # 8), *Vinca major* (Ocoee Residences # 8 & 10).

Direct and Indirect Effects Invasive Non-native Plants and Animals

All Alternatives

Under all alternatives the effects are similar. Control of non-native invasive plants is emphasized in the RLRMP and is addressed in the special-use permits for recreation residences and Camp Cherokee. Current infestations would be addressed through conditions outlined in the permits and a timeline for eradication from each site developed with the residence owner. Permits also limit what species can be planted on-site to prevent future establishment and spread of non-native invasive plants.

Cumulative Effects Invasive Non-native Plants and Animals

All Alternatives

The CNF strategy regarding non-native invasive species is the same under all alternatives. Non-native invasive species would be removed from recreation residences and Camp Cherokee facilities. The strategy of early detection and rapid response to control these species is used across the CNF and will eventually lead to improved ecosystem health and a positive cumulative effect for the environment.

Existing Condition Species Viability

Regional Forester Sensitive Species are those for which there is concern for viability of their populations across their range. Twenty-one sensitive species; either known from the area, found during surveys, or with available habitat located in the project area, were identified (Table 9).

In addition to Regional Forester Sensitive Species, forest managers have responsibility to maintain occurrences of all native and desired non-native species that are necessary to maintain viable populations of these species on the CNF under RLRMP Forest Wide Standard 28 (USDA 2004a). Appendices E and F to the FEIS for the RLRMP (USDA 2004c) lists species of viability concern known to occur on the CNF.

Table 9. TES species occurring or having the potential to occur in the proposed Revised Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines, Residence 14 Redefinition, and Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan project area, Polk and Monroe Counties, CNF, Tennessee.

| Scientific Name | Common Name | TES Rank |
|---|---------------------------------|------------|
| Amphibians | | |
| <i>Desmognathus santeetlah</i> | Santeetlah dusky salamander | Sensitive |
| <i>Eurycea junaluska</i> | Junaluska salamander | Sensitive |
| <i>Plethodon aureolus</i> | Tellico salamander | Sensitive |
| <i>Plethodon teyahalee</i> | Southern Appalachian salamander | Sensitive |
| Birds | | |
| <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> | Bald eagle | Sensitive |
| Fish | | |
| <i>Erimonax monachus</i> | Spotfin chub | Threatened |
| <i>Etheostoma sitikuense</i> | Citico darter | Endangered |
| <i>Etheostoma vulneratum</i> | Wounded darter | Sensitive |
| <i>Noturus baileyi</i> | Smoky madtom | Endangered |
| <i>Noturus flavipinnis</i> | Yellowfin madtom | Threatened |
| Insects | | |
| <i>Cheumatopsyche helma</i> | Helma's net-spinning caddisfly | Sensitive |
| <i>Gomphus consanguis</i> | Cherokee clubtail | Sensitive |
| <i>Gomphus viridifrons</i> | Green-faced clubtail | Sensitive |
| <i>Macromia margarita</i> | Mountain river cruiser | Sensitive |
| <i>Ophiogomphus incurvatus alleghaniensis</i> | Allegheny Snaketail | Sensitive |
| <i>Ophiogomphus edmundo</i> | Edmund's snaketail | Sensitive |
| <i>Ophiogomphus incurvatus</i> | Appalachian snaketail | Sensitive |
| <i>Speyeria Diana</i> | Diana fritillary | Sensitive |
| Mammals | | |
| <i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i> | Rafinesque's big-eared bat | Sensitive |
| <i>Myotis leibii</i> | Eastern small-footed bat | Sensitive |
| <i>Myotis sodalis</i> | Indiana bat | Endangered |
| <i>Sorex palustris punctulatus</i> | Southern water shrew | Sensitive |
| Snails | | |
| <i>Paravitrea placentula</i> | Glossy supercoil | Sensitive |

Table 9. TES species occurring or having the potential to occur in the proposed Revised Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines, Residence 14 Redefinition, and Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan project area, Polk and Monroe Counties, CNF, Tennessee.

| Scientific Name | Common Name | TES Rank |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| <i>Patera archeri</i> | Ocoee covert | Sensitive |
| <i>Vertiga bollesiana</i> | Delicate vertigo | Sensitive |
| <i>Vertigo clappi</i> | Cupped vertigo | Sensitive |

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Effects Species Viability

All Alternatives

Effects to Regional Forester Sensitive Species are analyzed in detail in the Biological Evaluation (BE Appendix B) for this project. The implementation of the proposed activities may affect individuals of sensitive species, however, this would not likely lead to a loss in range wide viability or trend toward federal listing. The Biological Evaluation ascertained Determinations of Effect for each species (Table 10).

For those species that are in addition to Regional Forester Sensitive Species, Appendix C describes the existing condition and effects by alternative for each species of viability concern that was found in the area.

Table 10. Determinations of effect for TES species in the proposed Revised Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines, Residence 14 Redefinition, and Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan project area, Polk and Monroe Counties, CNF, Tennessee,.

| Scientific Name | Determination of Effect-Alternative A | Determination of Effect Alternatives B and C |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Desmognathus santeetlah</i> | No impact-habitat excluded. | No impact-habitat excluded |
| <i>Eurycea junaluska</i> | No impact-habitat excluded | No impact-habitat excluded |
| <i>Plethodon aureolus</i> | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. |
| <i>Plethodon teyahalee</i> | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. |
| <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> | No impact. FLRMP Direction would be followed; no habitat would be affected and no unacceptable disturbance would occur. | No impact. RLRMP Direction would be followed; no habitat would be affected and no unacceptable disturbance would occur. |
| <i>Erimonax monachus</i> | No effect-habitat excluded. | No effect-habitat excluded. |
| <i>Etheostoma sitikuense</i> | No effect-habitat excluded. | No effect-habitat excluded. |
| <i>Etheostoma vulneratum</i> | No impact-habitat excluded. | No impact-habitat excluded. |
| <i>Noturus baileyi</i> | No effect-habitat excluded. | No effect-habitat excluded. |
| <i>Noturus flavipinnis</i> | No effect-habitat excluded. | No effect-habitat excluded. |
| <i>Cheumatopsyche helma</i> | No impact-habitat excluded. | No impact-habitat excluded. |
| <i>Gomphus consanguis</i> | No impact-habitat excluded. | No impact-habitat excluded. |

Table 10. Determinations of effect for TES species in the proposed Revised Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines, Residence 14 Redefinition, and Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan project area, Polk and Monroe Counties, CNF, Tennessee,.

| Scientific Name | Determination of Effect-Alternative A | Determination of Effect Alternatives B and C |
|---|--|--|
| <i>Gomphus viridifrons</i> | No impact-habitat excluded. | No impact-habitat excluded. |
| <i>Macromia margarita</i> | No impact-habitat excluded. | No impact-habitat excluded. |
| <i>Ophiogomphus incurvatus alleghaniensis</i> | No impact-habitat excluded. | No impact-habitat excluded. |
| <i>Ophiogomphus edmundo</i> | No impact-habitat excluded. | No impact-habitat excluded. |
| <i>Ophiogomphus incurvatus</i> | No impact-habitat excluded. | No impact-habitat excluded. |
| <i>Speyeria Diana</i> | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. |
| <i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i> | No impact-vegetation removal subject to review and approval | No impact-vegetation removal subject to review and approval |
| <i>Myotis leibii</i> | No impact-vegetation removal subject to review and approval | No impact-vegetation removal subject to review and approval |
| <i>Myotis sodalis</i> | No effect-vegetation removal subject to review and approval | No effect-vegetation removal subject to review and approval |
| <i>Sorex palustris punctulatus</i> | No impact-habitat excluded. | No impact-habitat excluded. |
| <i>Paravitrea placentula</i> | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. |
| <i>Patera archeri</i> | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. |
| <i>Vertiga bollesiana</i> | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. |
| <i>Vertigo clappi</i> | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. | May impact individuals, but not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of viability. |

Social Factors

This section discloses the effects to the social environment expected as a result of implementing Alternatives A, B or C. The social factors considered include the potential impacts to the quality of recreation settings and opportunities related to Public Recreation Resources as well as the Special Use Permit Holders for recreation residences and Camp Cherokee. The scope of the effects analysis is spatially limited to the Tellico and Ocoee/Hiwassee Ranger Districts of the Cherokee National Forest, specifically the affected areas around Parksville Lake and the Tellico River. Disclosed effects are based on the assumption that actions proposed in Alternatives A, B, or C would be realized prior to the renewal of special use permits in 2028.



View of Parksville Lake from the Ocoee Scenic Byway

A management goal for the Cherokee National Forest (CNF) is to “*provide a spectrum of high quality nature-based recreation settings and opportunities that reflect the unique or exceptional resources of the CNF and interests of the recreating public on an environmentally sound and financially sustainable basis.*” (USDA 2004a) In support of this goal, recreation special use permits can be authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service to offer recreation opportunities that are in the public’s interest.

Recreation residence and organizational camp special use permits have been authorized in the CNF for over 75 years, offering families and individuals unique opportunities to experience the national forest’s water-based, mountain settings. The Forest Service strives to provide these opportunities and administer the required special use permits in a manner that does not preclude the general public from using and enjoying the same outdoor recreation settings.

Presently, the Forest Service manages a wide variety of recreation sites in the Parksville Lake and Tellico River areas of the CNF. These developed sites have been designed to facilitate boating, sightseeing, picnicking, swimming, hiking, camping, fishing and other recreational activities. They are primarily located near U.S. Highway 64 and the Tellico River Road (NFSR 210) to provide convenient access.

National forest visitors travel to the Parksville Lake and Tellico River areas to enjoy and experience the unique water-based, mountain settings as well as their chosen activities. Based on the RRLMP, the public desires these recreation settings to be managed for a high level of scenic integrity. The Forest Service references the “*Landscape Aesthetics, A Handbook for Scenery Management*” (USDA 1995) to manage the scenic integrity of the national forest.

Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIOS)

During the RLRMP planning process the inventory of forest scenery was updated to reflect an increased interest in the quality of scenery and recreation settings. Forest landscapes were inventoried based on distances from popular viewpoints, public concern levels and scenic attractiveness and then assigned an appropriate Scenic Class. Management prescriptions in the RLRMP designate a Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) for each inventoried Scenic Class.

The National Forest System lands (NFS) that encompass the recreation residences and organizational camps on Parksville Lake and within the Tellico River corridor were inventoried and designated to meet a HIGH level of scenic integrity. This was based on a scale that includes LOW, MODERATE, HIGH and VERY HIGH and reflects the importance of scenery as viewed from the Ocoee Scenic Byway (U.S. Highway 64), Parksville Lake, Tellico River Road (National Forest System Road 210) and the Tellico River.

The following terms are used to define, analyze and disclose effects to scenery:

- “**Scenic Integrity** indicates the degree of intactness and wholeness of the landscape character. Human alterations can sometimes raise or maintain integrity. More often it is lowered depending on the degree of deviation from the character valued for its aesthetic appeal.” (USDA 1995)
- “**HIGH scenic integrity** refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character ‘appears’ intact. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such scale that they are not evident.”
- “**MODERATE scenic integrity** refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character ‘appears slightly altered.’ Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the landscape character being viewed.” (USDA 1995 p. 2-4)
- “**Natural or natural-appearing landscape character.** View each landscape in terms of landform, rockform, waterform, vegetation, or positive cultural elements – log cabins, split rail fences, or orchards.” (USDA 1995 p. 1-7)
- “**Land Use Patterns and Cultural Features:** Visible elements of historic and present land use which contribute to the image and sense of place.” (USDA 1995 1-16)

Existing Condition of Public Recreation Resources

The valued landscape character of the Parksville Lake and Tellico River areas of the CNF can be generally described as natural appearing water-based, mountain scenery with visible elements of historic and present land use contributing to the desired public sense of place for outdoor recreation.

The 62 recreation residences located around Parksville Lake and the 7 located near the Tellico River are all privately owned but reside on publicly owned land. In contrast to public and commercial recreation facilities such as boat ramps, marinas, and to a lesser extent, organizational camps, which

facilitate public recreational use, the presence of recreation residences do not contribute to a public sense of place for outdoor recreation. However, they have historically been visible and accepted elements of the affected recreation settings.

Over the past 75 years there have been modifications made to forest vegetation, buildings, outdoor living improvements, water-use improvements and exterior lighting that have increased the visibility of permitted recreation residences and organizational camps. As the presence of these special uses increases, the scenic integrity of the affected public recreation resources decreases. The following examples illustrate how the existing scenic integrity of the Parksville Lake public recreation setting has been becoming more consistent with a MODERATE level of scenic integrity.



ABOVE: Forest vegetation surrounding recreation residences has been modified to various degrees over the years. The scale and location of these modifications directly affects how visible recreation residences and related improvements are to the general public.



ABOVE: This photo was taken in the opposite direction of the previous photo and illustrates the extent to which the natural surrounding vegetation has been modified and maintained to a cleared condition. Removal of undergrowth also affects future scenic integrity because it interferes with the

natural process of providing a succession of replacement trees around the residences. This effect is most obvious in areas with a large number of pine trees. See photo BELOW.



ABOVE: Modifications to vegetation also increase the visibility of the built environment. Water-use improvements, outdoor living improvements and ancillary improvements such as exterior lighting are more evident due to the removal of surrounding natural vegetation. The increased exposure of these improvements decreases the scenic integrity of the public recreation setting. When surrounding vegetation is modified to the extent that the recreation residence and related improvements are exposed to public view, the scenic integrity is decreased to a MODERATE level.



ABOVE: All water-use improvements around Parksville Lake are visible to some degree because there is no opportunity to eliminate them from public view. But some improvements are less noticeable than others because they repeat the form, line, color, texture, pattern and/or scale common to the surrounding landscape.

Existing docks and decks with low profiles and natural colors blend well with the horizontal character of the shoreline and can be less noticeable than a moored boat as shown in the photo above. Because these water-use improvements blend instead of contrast with the surrounding landscape character they are consistent with achieving a HIGH Scenic Integrity Objective.



ABOVE: There are several roofed water-use improvements associated with recreation residences, organizational camps and the marina. These structures are considered “buildings” by definition and visually stand out along the natural appearing shoreline. By design, these buildings must protrude from the shoreline into plain sight.

The vertical character and scale of these roofed structures contrast with the horizontal character of the shoreline to a greater degree than typical docks and decks. Consequently, visitors notice these structures from a greater distance.

The boathouse shown on the right is less noticeable to the public because it is not enclosed with constructed sides and the surrounding vegetation has not been visibly modified. This structure blends better with the surrounding landscape than other boathouses viewed along the shoreline.

The presence of existing boathouses and other roofed structures on Parksville Lake are consistent with achieving a MODERATE level of scenic integrity because they contrast too much with the surrounding natural appearing landscape and do not contribute to a public sense of place for outdoor recreation.



LEFT: Other tall, vertical structures such as high diving boards are more noticeable than low diving boards.

The boat house and high diving board in this photo are the most conspicuous elements related to this recreation residence and contribute to a MODERATE level of scenic integrity.



LEFT: Exterior lighting is a common ancillary improvement associated with recreation residences, organizational camps and public recreation facilities such as boat ramps along U.S. Highway 64. Most existing light fixtures are security flood lights typical of urban streetscapes and suburban residential settings.

The uncontrolled light emitted from these fixtures flood the night sky and affected areas. Some lights are programmed to be on every night and all night regardless if the associated residence or facility is being occupied or operated.

Unnecessary light pollution decreases the quality of the night sky and can be noticed from many viewpoints. The excessive light is consistent with a MODERATE level of scenic integrity.



ABOVE: The existing recreation residence shown above would not be noticeable except for the red metal roof. Effective vegetation management blends the residence with the surrounding landscape but the red color and light reflecting off the metal surface draws attention to the residence.



ABOVE: The concentration and scale of buildings, constructed outdoor living improvements, water-use improvements and exterior lighting at Camp Cherokee are noticeable along the shoreline of Parksville Lake. The location of the camp near Sylco Inlet keeps it out of plain view from the Ocoee Scenic Byway and the main channel of the lake. However, the scale and close proximity of the facilities and play fields near the shoreline contribute to a MODERATE level of scenic integrity because everything is in plain view of the general public.

Direct and Indirect Effects to Public Recreation Resources

The standards and guidelines for regulating recreation residences and the Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan vary between Alternatives A, B and C and would allow the special use permit holders to

continue to affect public recreation settings to various degrees. The most commonly observed alterations and deviations from the natural appearing landscape would be changes to the built environment and surrounding vegetation.

In regard to recreation residences, these alterations would be managed through the implementation of the approved standards and guidelines for building improvements, outdoor living improvements, water use improvements, vegetative improvements, ancillary improvements and the operation, maintenance and other uses of the recreation residence. The approved master plan and permit for an organizational camp would provide the same level of guidance.

Quantitative information used in assessing the direct and indirect effects was estimated using available data, i.e. square feet of existing or potential development based on existing and proposed standards and guidelines.

Alternative A (No Action)

The implementation of Alternative A, No Action or the status quo, would result in a few noticeable changes from the existing condition already described. The overall scenic integrity of the affected public recreation settings would be expected to increase over time as natural vegetation presently being modified to a greater extent than permitted would gradually be restored. The increased vegetation would help blend the built environment into the surrounding landscape to some extent.

However, the continued visibility of some buildings, sprawling constructed living improvements and water-use improvements and uncontrolled exterior lighting would remain consistent with achieving a MODERATE Scenic Integrity Objective over time versus the assigned HIGH Scenic Integrity Objective.



Existing condition would remain consistent with MODERATE level of scenic integrity over time.

Building Improvements

Presently approximately 23 residences meet or exceed the 1,700 square feet maximum size allowed for a combined footprint of the actual residence and associated deck, screened porch or patio (1,200 square feet limit for residence + 500 square feet limit for attached patio or deck). Approximately 46

recreation residences including the 7 within the Tellico River corridor would be allowed to expand up to 1,700 square feet under the No Action Alternative. Potential future impacts would be limited to approximately 15,000 square feet of additional buildings (about 1/3 of an acre).

In addition to the recreation residence itself, permit holders would continue to be allowed an additional storage building and pump house within their permit area. There would also continue to be seven toilet structures allowed, four of which are located within the Tellico Corridor.

The visibility of buildings would only increase if the footprint of existing recreation residences were expanded in areas commonly viewed by the general public. Potential impacts would be mitigated by approving exterior colors and building materials that would blend with the surrounding landscape. "Soft shades of gray, brown or green" as specified in the existing Design and Construction Standards for Summer Homes as amended 4/16/1999 would be allowed.

Surrounding vegetation would also function to screen buildings in plain sight of the general public and would not be modified beyond the intent of Clause D "Resource Protection, Health and Safety (1) Maintenance of vegetation" as specified in the Operation and Maintenance Plan (5/22/2003).

Allowable roofs would have pitches from 3:12 up to 9:12 with wood shingles, composite shingles or metal roofing. Metal roofs would be permissible and continue to be the most noticeable negative element of some recreation residences due to the reflectivity and color of the roofing materials. The existing red metal roof would continue to be noticeable from Parksville Lake until the permit holder decides to replace it with a different color and/or material.

Boat Houses

Based on an April 1999 amendment to the Design and Construction Standards for Summer Homes, no new boat houses would be allowed on Parksville Lake and enlargements of the 6 existing boat houses would not be permitted. This amendment would continue to effectively limit the visual impact of boat houses to 6 structures existing on Parksville Lake versus a potential for fifty or more.

The variations in size, style and building materials of the existing boat houses would continue to be noticeable at greater distances in comparison to adjacent docks and decks. This is due to the vertical walls and roofs contrasting with the horizontal character and natural lines created by the lake. Docks and decks typically complement these lines and are less noticeable.

Opportunities to mitigate the existing visual impact of boat houses using vegetative screening would be limited because these structures protrude out into the lake. Some available mitigating options would include using building materials and architectural styles that reduce contrasts with the surrounding landscape. Presently, these existing structures would continue to have a negative effect on achieving the desired HIGH level of scenic integrity and contribute to a MODERATE level.

Outdoor Living Improvements

Constructed outdoor living improvements include patios, decks and other constructed site amenities and areas that help facilitate outdoor living. Picnic tables, fire rings, grills, decks and other permanent site amenities would be considered as outdoor living improvements. Approximately 55,000 square feet or 1 ¼-acre would continue to be occupied by constructed living improvements around Parksville Lake. Only 24 recreation residences do not have some type of measurable constructed outdoor living improvements.



View of an existing constructed living improvement. Natural vegetation has been modified to maintain open views to lake.

Allowed new construction of outdoor living improvements would be limited to approximately 15,000 square feet (about 1/3 of an acre) if quantified under allowed building improvements or a maximum of 2,500 additional square feet if quantified as part of water-use improvements. Any restored vegetation that could effectively screen improvements presently in plain sight of the general public would increase scenic integrity over time.

Water Use Improvements

Approximately 37 of 62 recreation residences surrounding Parksville Lake have an existing dock/deck combination exceeding the current standard of 400 square feet as permitted in the 1999 Design and Construction Standards for Summer Homes. Under the No Action Alternative, the remaining 25 recreation residences would be allowed to expand up to 400 square feet.

The consequent effects would be both positive and negative for achieving a HIGH level of scenic integrity. The positive effect would be that only docks/decks less than 400 square feet combined would be allowed to expand over time equating to a maximum total of 2,500 additional square feet. Therefore, the impact that typical docks and decks presently have within the Lake Zone would not noticeably change over time.

The negative effects that could decrease scenic integrity would be associated with the placement and vertical height of docks, decks and associated structures. Present and future placement of dock and deck improvements would not be confined or reconfigured to a consolidated location within the Lake Zone. This would continue to promote the appearance of a more developed lake setting because structures could be sprawled across the shoreline and not limited to a defined area. Eight decks would remain free-standing in the lake and would continue to visually stand out as unconnected to the land.

Roofed and/or enclosed water use improvements in addition to the six boat houses already mentioned, would remain a noticeable component of the public recreation setting. This includes one roofed deck over the water and one double deck structure. The vertical character and scale of these roofed structures would continue to contrast with the horizontal character of the shoreline to a greater degree than typical docks and decks. Consequently, visitors would continue to notice the presence of these structures from a greater distance than other typical water-use improvements.

Other vertical fixtures, i.e. high diving boards and slides would be more noticeable as well in comparison to low profile structures such as floating docks and low diving boards. The presence of existing bathhouses and other roofed structures on Parksville Lake would continue to be consistent achieving a MODERATE level of scenic integrity because they noticeably contrast with the surrounding natural appearing landscape and do not contribute to a public sense of place for outdoor recreation.

Vegetative Improvements

Vegetative improvements are defined as any modifications to vegetation including but not limited to clearing, felling, brushing, mowing, trimming, pruning or eradicating vegetation. Under the No Action Alternative, vegetative improvements would be limited to those meeting the intent of Clause D “Resource Protection, Health and Safety (1) Maintenance of vegetation” as specified in the Operation and Maintenance Plan (5/22/2003).

Presently vegetation management practices would continue to sustain some functional vegetative screening of recreation residences, structures and maintained lawns. However, over the past decade, vegetative screening, especially evergreen screening, has been reduced due to both natural causes and human alterations. The Southern Pine Beetle epidemic around Parksville Lake in the late 1990s and more recently, infestations of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the Tellico River corridor have killed many trees that used to provide effective vegetative screening.

Permit holders have perpetuated the reduction of vegetative screening or increased it by actively modifying vegetation over the years. Some of these vegetative improvements meet the intent of Clause D while others are intended to increase outdoor living space, create unobstructed views of the lake from residences and provide the appearance of a clean forest floor. If left alone, these openings would have reforested over the last decade and supported trees and underbrush sufficient to completely or partially screen buildings and improvements now in plain view.



LEFT: Vegetation improvements include clearing the forest of underbrush and interfering with the natural succession of vegetation.

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would perpetuate the existing direction that no soil, trees, or other vegetation maybe removed from national forest lands without prior permission from the authorized officer or as granted in the operation and maintenance plan. The Forest Service would retain the authority to restore vegetative screening as needed on a case by case basis. The positive effect would be the opportunity to enhance vegetative screening and scenic integrity over time.

The negative effect would be the limitations to promote vegetative screening within the Lake Zone due to existing development and established user patterns. Sprawling constructed living spaces and walkways near the lake would occupy areas that could support vegetative screening. The additional vegetation would help blend viewed structures into the surrounding landscape and improve scenic integrity.

Ancillary Improvements

The most noticeable ancillary improvements would continue to be exterior lighting.



LEFT: Existing light fixture

Exterior lighting would continue to be allowed at the discretion of the recreation residence owners. Flood lights and other light fixtures would continue to illuminate outdoor areas for activities, safety and security.

Many of these fixtures would not direct light downward, but continue to flood the night sky. Excessive lighting beyond the level necessary to provide for safety and security would be viewed by neighboring recreation residences and visitors seeking an escape from typical urban and residential nighttime settings. These fixtures and excessive light emissions would remain evident and consistent with a MODERATE Scenic Integrity Objective.

Operation, Maintenance, and Other Uses

The operation, maintenance and other uses of the recreation residence would continue to have temporary impacts to the scenic integrity of the public recreation resources. The presence of these impacts such as shade canopies, folding chairs, flags, boats, inflatable water play items would be limited to times when residences are being used. They would not be considered permanent impacts to the quality of the public recreation setting.

Recreation Residence #14

The operation and use of Cabin #14 would not affect the scenic integrity of public recreation resources. The cabin cannot be viewed from the Ocoee Scenic Byway or Parksville Lake.

Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan

The visibility of Camp Cherokee would be limited to visitors using the Sylco Inlet area of Parksville Lake where the presence of the camp would remain obvious. The camp would continue to appear consistent with a MODERATE level of scenic integrity due the high visibility of a large scale development.

Existing lodging facilities at Camp Cherokee have been constructed in a piecemeal approach over many years. Architectural styles, materials and colors vary throughout the camp. There would continue to be a group of “Boys” cabins and “Girls” cabins to provide overnight accommodations. The existing development plan would support construction of a 10-12 unit lodge with conference center and a new care takers cabin. These existing and proposed overnight facilities would be located

at reasonable distance from the shoreline and small enough in size to negate impacts to scenic integrity.

Other buildings in addition to overnight accommodations would continue to be essential for the organizational camp. Existing structures such as the dining hall, gathering shelter and storage buildings would continue to be present at the camp.

Functional outdoor spaces would continue to support organized and self-directed activities such as field sports, outdoor games, group gatherings, etc. These spaces would remain in close proximity to the shoreline because of limited space within the existing permit area to accommodate field play. The maintenance of green space for within the Lake Zone would continue to eliminate vegetative screening and increase the camp's visibility from the lake.



ABOVE: The visibility of Camp Cherokee through the park-like stand of trees would continue to be more consistent with a MODERATE level of scenic integrity than a HIGH level.

Presently Camp Cherokee has one canoe storage structure on the lake constructed of corrugated metal which contrasts with the surrounding environment. This structure would continue to have a negative impact to the desired high level of scenic integrity.

Exterior lighting would continue to be allowed as desired by the camp manager. Excessive lighting would diminish the night time experience for campers expecting to use flashlights and see the stars. Exterior light fixtures would continue to appear inappropriate for the desired natural forest setting.

Alternative B (Proposed Action)

The proposed action would implement Alternative B Revised Standards and Guidelines for Recreation Residences as described in Chapter 2 and the proposed Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan. These Revised Standards and Guidelines and the proposed Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan were based on design concepts intended to raise the level of scenic integrity for affected public recreation resources, recreation residences and organizational camps by the year 2028.

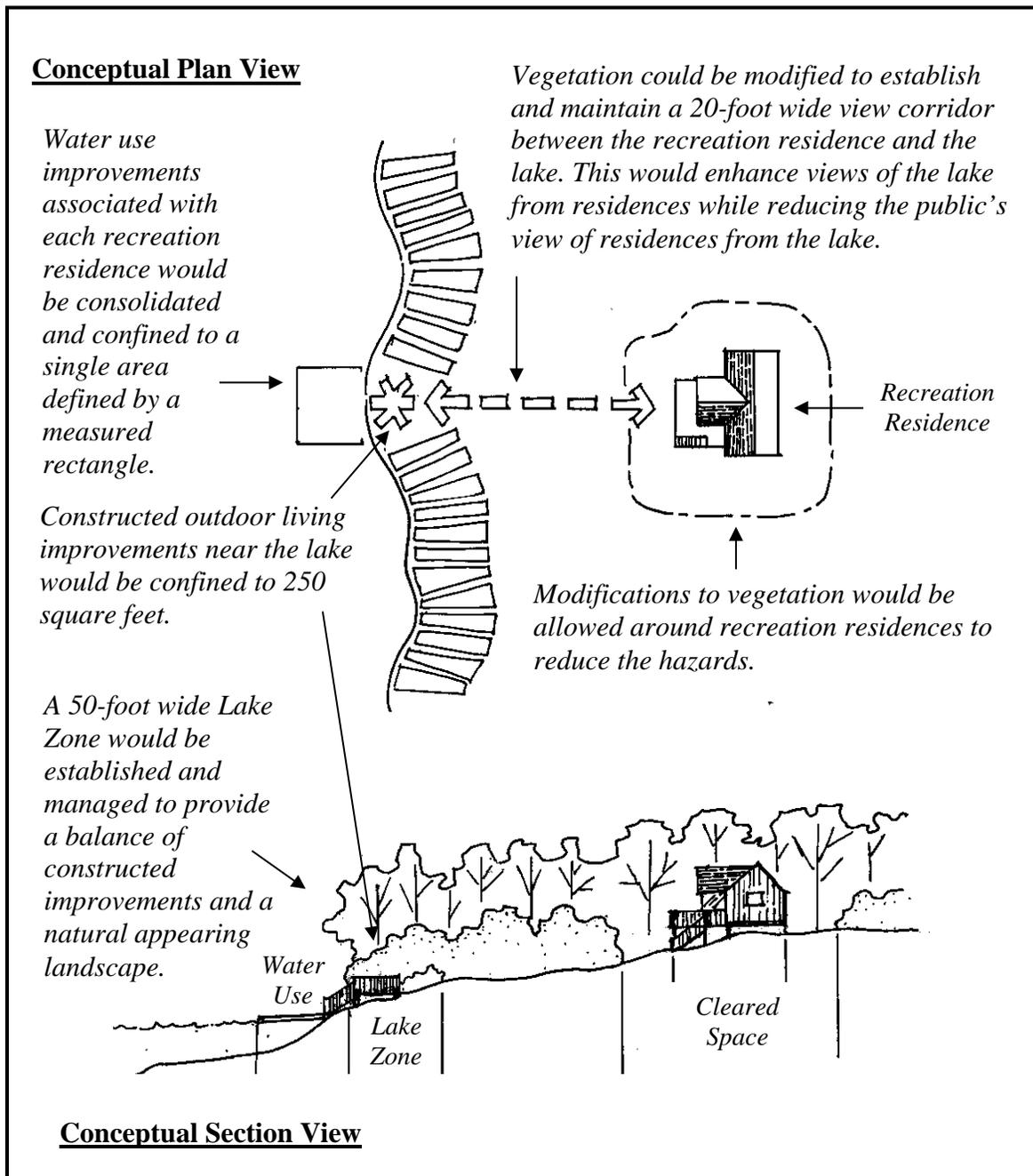
The HIGH scenic integrity objective (SIO) prescribed in the RLRMP for affected areas would be achieved over time by decreasing the existing visual contrasts between the built and natural environments. This would be accomplished through restoring natural vegetation; allowing an increase of constructed improvements that repeat the form, line, color, texture, pattern and scale common to the valued landscape character and removing existing improvements, or components thereof, that noticeably deviate from the desired natural appearing landscape and public sense of place.

The public view of recreation residences and the national forest would change as permit holders operate, maintain and improve their respective recreation residences in compliance with the Revised Standards and Guidelines prior to renewal of their permits in 2028. The most noticeable changes would be the consolidation of water-use improvements; the removal of eight roofed structures on Parksville Lake; a decrease in uncontrolled exterior lighting and an increase in vegetative screening of constructed buildings and other improvements.



ABOVE: The public view of this recreation residence would noticeably change by the year 2028 and the integrity of national forest scenery would increase from MODERATE to HIGH. Some natural vegetation would be restored between the lake and residence that would help blend the residence and related improvements into the surrounding landscape. A cleared 20-foot wide view corridor would be maintained to allow the users of the recreation residence a view of the lake. The roof and supporting structures would be removed from the deck protruding into the lake. Other components of the deck and dock would visually blend with the horizontal character of the affected shoreline.

The following diagram illustrates the design concepts employed to offer permit holders more flexibility in using, maintaining, and improving their respective recreation residences while achieving Forest planning and management objectives including a HIGH Scenic Integrity Objective.



Standard 1: Building Improvements

Residences

A total of 58 residences would be allowed to expand up to the 2,100 square feet footprint. This could result in approximately 33,500 square feet of additional building which is 18,500 more square feet than current restrictions allow. If all residences were expanded to their allowed limits, 0.77 acre of land could be developed over time. Expansion of current recreation residences resulting in taller, more prominent structures would create the most noticeable negative impacts to scenic integrity. Expansion of decks, screen porches and basements would be less noticeable.



LEFT: This recreation residence is consistent with the footprint allowed under the Revised Standard & Guidelines

Exterior colors for recreation residences would continue to be compatible with the surrounding forest environment, but light and reflective shades of earth tone colors would be replaced with warmer tones to reduce color contrasts with the surrounding environment. Gray and brown based colors like tope would be preferred over greens that contrast with the surrounding during leaf-off seasons.

The same preferences would be applied to roof colors. Metal roofs would not be permitted and existing metal roofs would be changed to a less reflective material when due for replacement. By more closely repeating the forms, lines, colors, textures, and patterns common the surrounding landscapes, the affected buildings would blend more completely and be less evident to the public. This practice would be consistent with achieving a HIGH level of scenic integrity.

Existing toilet buildings would be removed after a septic system is installed and no new separate toilet buildings would be permitted. This would reduce the built environment by four structures within the Tellico River corridor and three structures around Parksville Lake. Fewer buildings would be a positive effect for scenic integrity.

Boat Houses

The six existing boat houses and two other roofed structures on Parksville Lake would be removed from the public recreation setting before permits are renewed in 2028. The removal of these structures from the lake would diminish the overall presence of recreation residences around Parksville Lake. These buildings visually stand out along the shoreline due to their vertical scale and character which contrasts with the horizontal character of the shoreline. This contrast makes them

conspicuous and noticeable at greater distances from the shoreline in comparison to surrounding docks and decks with lower, more horizontal profiles. Once these roofed structures are removed, the surrounding shoreline would appear less developed. Remaining structures in the affected area may go unnoticed since the roofed structures would no longer attract attention. A HIGH Scenic Integrity Objective would be achieved.

Standard 2: Outdoor Living Improvements

Each recreation residence would be allowed to construct up to 250 square feet of outdoor living space within the Lake Zone. The constructed spaces would be consolidated to a single area within the Lake Zone. The side facing the lake would be restricted to 30 feet or less. Approximately 7,500 square feet or less than 0.2 acre would be impacted if all the allowable constructed living space was realized.



LEFT: This patio is attached to a recreation residence and measures 14 feet x 16 feet. The patio accounts for 224 square feet of constructed outdoor living improvements.

If the residence measures less than 2,100 square feet, an attached patio could be calculated as part of the allowed 2,100 square feet. In that case, the permit holder would be allowed to construct 250 square feet of outdoor living improvements elsewhere at an approved location on the lot outside of the Lake Zone.

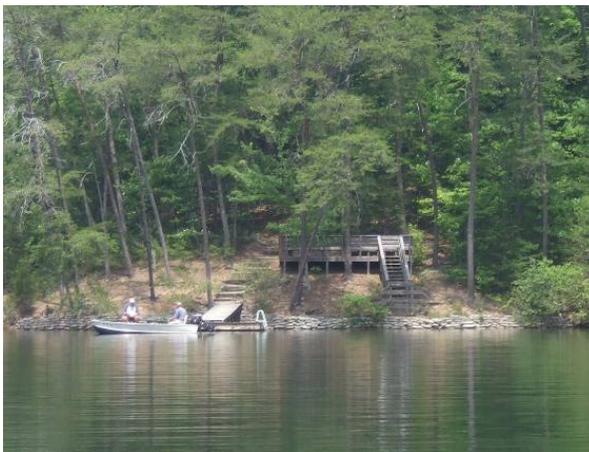


LEFT: Eight free standing decks would be allowed to remain in Parksville Lake. New decks would be required to be attached and visually anchored to the land.



LEFT: Decks that extend over the lake would blend with the horizontal character of the shoreline and blend well enough to achieve a HIGH Scenic Integrity Objective.

Future decks that extend over the water would be calculated as part of the 1008 square feet of allowed water-use improvements and in the 250 square feet of allowed Lake Zone outdoor living improvements.



ABOVE: Decks in the Lake Zone that are constructed on land do not blend as well with the horizontal character of the shoreline as shown in the front view on the left, but are less noticeable from the side view on the right. These structures achieve a HIGH Scenic Integrity Objective. Decks in the Lake Zone that do not extend over the water would be considered as a part of the 250 square feet of allowed Lake Zone outdoor living improvements, but not included as part of the 1008 square feet of allowed water-use improvements.

Standard 3: Water Use Improvements

Docks

Dock/deck combinations would be permitted to expand beyond the 400 square feet currently set as the limit in the *1999 Design and Construction Standards for Summer Homes*. However, all water use improvements associated with a recreation residence would have to be consolidated and confined to a single area defined by a rectangle. The overall effect of restricting water use improvements to a single location would be positive for scenic integrity. The negative visual effects associated with water-use structures at each recreation residence would be limited to a single area versus being sprawled across the shoreline. Consequently, the shoreline would appear less developed and more natural.



LEFT: The horizontal character and low profile of these deck/dock improvements would be consistent with achieving HIGH Scenic Integrity Objective.

Based on the present total square footage of existing deck/dock configurations on Parksville Lake, this alternative would offer more than 20,000 additional square feet of space to accommodate water-use improvements. The potential increase of water-use improvement structures should not decrease the overall scenic integrity of Parksville Lake because of the low profile and horizontal character of allowed improvements. When viewed from the lake, allowed water-use improvements and associated fixtures would blend well enough with the horizontal nature of the affected shoreline to achieve a HIGH level of scenic integrity.

Diving Boards

High diving boards and slides would be removed prior to permits being renewed in 2028. Eight low diving boards could continue to be located within the Lake Zone. Other low profile diving boards would be allowed. The consequent effect on achieving a HIGH level of scenic integrity would be positive due to the elimination of the higher structures such as slides and high diving board that would be more noticeable to the public as described for the existing condition.

Standard 4: Vegetative Improvements

The Revised Standards and Guidelines would clarify the circumstances under which vegetation could be modified. Rationale could include reducing the risk of wildfire damaging structures; removing hazards to people using the site; accommodating approved uses of the site such as a parking lot or patio or creating a 20-foot wide view of the lake from a residence. In situations where an existing residence is located in the Lake Zone, a minimum of half the distance from the lake to the building would be retained in an unmanaged state. Recreation residences without lake access would be allowed up to a half acre of lawn, but not exceeding their lot size.

Vegetative improvements not meeting the standards and guidelines would not be grandfathered and would cease to be developed, maintained, or operated. Only vegetative improvements meeting these standards and guidelines would be allowed to continue. All other natural vegetation would be allowed and encouraged to grow.

Natural processes would provide a succession of replacement trees and shrubs that would provide shade and privacy around recreation residences for generation after generation of users to enjoy. Increased vegetation especially in the Lake Zone would also serve as vegetative screening and effectively reduce the visibility of the built environment to the public.

The existing scale of areas presently being cleared of native plants would be reduced and become less noticeable to the public as well. The restored green undergrowth would blend with the

surrounding landscape better than the existing brown areas of exposed soil and duff as shown in the Existing Condition and Alternative A. The increased vegetation would serve a critical role in achieving a HIGH Scenic Integrity Objective.

BELOW: A diversity of aesthetic trees naturally occurs in areas that have not been modified and impacted around recreation residences. When allowed to emerge and grow, these trees would provide aesthetics, shade, privacy, vegetative screening, erosion control and other beneficial functions.

Dogwood



Maple



Holly



Oak



LEFT: Forest Service would continue to mark trees and issue a timber permit before permit holders would be allowed to cut a tree.

Having replacement trees already established near hazard trees such as the pine tree in the photo would help maintain a HIGH level of scenic integrity over time.

The establishment of the Lake Zone would consolidate and limit constructed living spaces and water-use improvements to allow more opportunities for restoring vegetative screening. Increased vegetation would decrease the visibility of the built environment from the lake.



LEFT: This recreation residence has established a view corridor that allows its users to view and enjoy the lake from the residence. The remaining vegetation sufficiently screens the residence from public view and directly contributes to achieving a HIGH Scenic Integrity Objective.

Standard 5: Ancillary Improvements

Exterior lighting would continue to be allowed at recreation residences in designated areas. Lights mounted above 3-feet from the ground would be limited to one at each entrance of the residence or storage building, the parking area, and for outdoor living improvements or decks attached to the residence. Lights mounted 3-feet or lower from the ground would be permitted every 10-foot along walkways, one per each 50 square feet of outdoor living improvements and one on dock facilities.

All new exterior lights would be controlled and directed toward the ground. This would effectively eliminate flooding the night sky, the lake, other recreation residences and the public recreation settings with unnecessary light. One permanent light fixture would be permitted on water-use structures for the purpose of safety. Any activities that required additional light would need to be provided by portable light sources.

The overall effect would be an increase in indirect or glowing light versus direct and misguided light that is easily noticed and undesirable. Moreover, use of light fixtures would be limited to the when the residences or related improvements are in use. These effects would be consistent with achieving a HIGH level of scenic integrity.

Standard 6: Operation, Maintenance, and Other Uses

Guidelines would allow utilities, parking areas and other uses to be located wherever impacts would be minimized even if the best location is outside the permit area. This practice would be consistent with achieving a HIGH Scenic Integrity Objective.

Recreation Residence 14

Changes in the operation and use of Cabin #14 would not affect the scenic integrity of public recreation resources. The cabin cannot be viewed from the Ocoee Scenic Byway or Parksville Lake.

Having the cabin available for public rental would provide an opportunity to the general public to experience the use of a recreation residence in the Cherokee National Forest.

Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan

The proposed Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan was developed in response to national forest land and resource management issues. A graphic plan was produced to spatially convey the Camp's desired program areas within the proposed permit boundaries. Areas suited for various activities and overnight accommodations are conceptually shown in relationship with each other and include a waterfront zone, group camping zone, traditional youth camp zone, and a zone for an adult friendly campus.

Under all action alternatives, approximately 14 acres of NFS land would be added to the camp's existing permit area. This proposed expansion would allow future buildings and constructed outdoor living improvement to be setback further from the lake than the existing condition allows. The intended effect is described as follows in the plan narrative,

“The Plan as presented reflects the Forest Service concern that the public not have to visualize a shoreline interrupted by a host of man-made structures or program areas. In every instance where the public can view the Camp shoreline the Plan attempts to select a placement and a scale of the facility to accommodate this concern... The local forest buffer is able to filter and eliminate from view much of the development, however it's just not possible to achieve a 100% success rate and still allow the campers to experience the typical camp activities where the topography, the forest and water combine to enrich the experience beyond all expectations... To limit the amount of development along the shore, only those essential elements are allowed; boat docks and slips, and designated swim areas. The plan generally has retreated beyond the forest buffer to create new developments.” (p.14, Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan)

“It would be possible with careful, selective trimming and plant material removal, to create a few natural vistas across parts of the landscape to enhance the sense of space, magnitude and mystery about far places the eye can explore.” (p.18, Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan)

Constructed living spaces would be set back from the shoreline and Lake Zone over time. This would be possible due to the additional 14 acres of land added to the Camp's permit area. Vegetative screening would be increased within the waterfront area and the buffer between existing and proposed buildings and constructed outdoor living improvements. The effect would be positive and consistent with achieving a HIGH scenic integrity objective.

Designated swimming areas would still require vegetation to be cleared to provide unobstructed views to the lake for adequate supervision. Parking would be consolidated to designated areas allowing natural areas to be retained around existing and proposed facilities.

The master site plan would accommodate for additional overnight capacity by developing new boys and girls cabin areas; adding family oriented cabins; staff housing and two lodges. In general, all of these proposed facilities would be physically set back from the lake so visibility from the lake would not be a concern.

To implement the intent of the plan, outdoor lighting would be minimized at the camp to provide safe movement in resident areas and increased only in main public areas. Fixtures would direct light downward and would be an appropriate style for a natural versus urban outdoor setting. This would be a positive effect for recreation and scenery as described in the camp's master plan:

“In the matter of outdoor lighting, it’s imperative the highest level of safety be maintained while at the same time exhibiting great care that the area does not take on an urbanized look. ...much of the richness and mystery of the place is experienced in program activity which takes place after dark. Bright surface lighting often encroaches seriously on the preferred environment for these programs.” (p. 19, Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan)

Alternative C

The potential effects to the quality of public recreation resources recreation resources would be the same as described for Alternative B with the exception of changes to Standard 1: Buildings and Standard 3: Water Use Improvements.

Standard 1: Building Improvements

The six existing boat houses and two other roofed structures on Parksville Lake would continue to be grandfathered and allowed to be improved before renewing permits in 2028. No other recreation residences would be allowed to have such structures.

The six roofed boathouses would be removed or modified to meet the Revised Standards and Guidelines by 2028. No constructed sides or metal roofs would be permitted. The elimination of constructed sides would affect 5 of the 8 roofed structures. This action would reduce the visual contrast of the buildings with the surrounding natural landscapes by allowing the public to view the affected landscapes through the structures.



Simulated view of a boat house without side walls from TVA’s Shoreline Management Initiative: An Assessment of Residential Shoreline Development Impacts in the Tennessee Valley, Final Environmental Impact Statement, p. 4-44.

Because these structures would still protrude into the water they would continue to visually stand out along the shoreline and be recognized from greater distances than surrounding docks and decks with lower, less noticeable horizontal profiles. The vertical scale and character of these structures would contrast with the surrounding natural appearing landscape and continue to catch the attention from the general public.

Once visitors noticed the roofed structures on the lake, other nearby improvements would come into focus as well. Surrounding water-use and outdoor living improvements expanded up 1,008 square feet and 250 square feet respectively within the Lake Zone would be more noticeable.

These roofed structures would remain consistent with achieving a MODERATE Scenic Integrity Objective because of their prominent location on the lake and permanent contrast with the

surrounding natural appearing landscape. They would continue to magnify the presence of recreation residences on Parksville Lake.

Standard 2: Outdoor Living Improvements

Same potential effects as described for Alternative B.

Standard 3: Water Use Improvements

Under Alternative C all existing diving boards and slides would be grandfathered. New diving boards would be approved only if mounted less than 40-inches about the water. The presence of high diving boards and related support structures would continue to be more noticeable than other diving boards mounted lower and closer to the water. The contrast of some of these vertical structures would be consistent with achieving a MODERATE level of scenic integrity. Others, such as the diving boards at Cabins #55 and #23 would remain less noticeable due to minimal infrastructure and lower heights from the water.

Standard 4: Vegetative Improvements

Same potential effects as described for Alternative B.

Standard 5: Ancillary Improvements

Same potential effects as described for Alternative B.

Standard 6: Operation, Maintenance, and Other Uses

Same potential effects as described for Alternative B.

Recreation Residence 14

Same potential effects as described for Alternative B.

Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan

Same potential effects as described for Alternative B.

Cumulative Effects to Public Recreation Resources

Cumulative effects for scenery and public recreation resources include several facilities developed and operated by the Forest Service and the private sector to support recreational use of the Cherokee National Forest in the areas of Parksville Lake and the Tellico River Corridor. These facilities differ from recreation residences because they are open to the general public. They would continue to be more visible to the public and larger in size to accommodate demand.

In addition to the 62 recreation residences around Parksville Lake there would continue to be two developed swim beaches, three boat launches, one permitted marina, another organizational camp, several roadside picnic sites along U.S. Highway 64 (Ocoee Scenic Byway) and various visible utilities. Within the Tellico River corridor, a state fish hatchery with 2 residences, developed picnic area and several nearby campgrounds would continue to surround the seven recreation residences. All of these facilities would continue to be operated, maintained and expanded over time as demand increases.



ABOVE: Mac Point Beach located on Parksville Lake off U.S. Highway 64 has been recently renovated to improve the restroom facilities and picnic sites. The new restrooms and picnic pavilion were located behind existing trees to reduce visual impacts to the lake setting. The open areas are noticeable from the lake and accommodate a high number of visitors to Parksville Lake. Scenic views from this site are directed toward the undeveloped shoreline of Parksville Lake and the surrounding mountains.



LEFT: The marina and inn located on the Ocoee Scenic Byway and Parksville Lake provides marina services for visitors to the lake.

The use of metal roofs has a negative effect on achieving a HIGH level of scenic integrity as viewed from the lake and byway.

Some of the exterior lighting in the parking areas has been changed to control and direct light downward.



LEFT: Visual impacts from the Southern Pine Beetle epidemic in the early 1990s are still evident around Parksville Lake.

The pine trees on the right were killed but a natural succession of hardwood trees is reforesting the affected areas.

The cumulative effects of existing facilities and those anticipated in the reasonably foreseeable future have an overall impact to the valued landscape character of the Parksville Lake and Tellico River areas of the CNF. The desired character can generally be described as natural appearing water-based, mountain scenery with visible elements of historic and present land use contributing to the desired public sense of place for outdoor recreation. Achieving an overall HIGH Scenic Integrity Objective would be a desired cumulative effect.

Alternative A (No Action)

In addition to the direct and indirect effects already described, retaining wall construction along the Parksville Lake shoreline would contribute to an overall cumulative effect to scenic integrity. Retaining walls would continue to be approved by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The Forest Service would continue to provide TVA with recommendations on retaining wall specifications to reduce negative impacts to scenic integrity. Recommendations would include not building retaining walls unless no other viable option exists. If construction is necessary, the use of native materials that blend with the landscape would be preferred. Split-faced block retaining walls colored to match surrounding soils would be the one of the least noticeable options when viewed from a distance.

The presence of roofed structures on the water would be increased when the marina and Camp Ocoee are included in the bigger picture. The additional structures would remain noticeable to a greater degree than the existing eight roofed structures associated with recreation residence. However, these structures serve a public need and are necessary for the public function of these permitted developments. The eight additional structures would not be considered necessary for the use of the recreation residence. They add to the presence of the built environment and a MODERATE level of scenic integrity.

To improve the overall scenic integrity of Parksville Lake the Forest Service would work with permit holders and its own facilities to reduce contrast with the surrounding landscape character. Reasonably foreseeable actions would include a reduction in vegetation improvements to increase

screening of the built environment, a transition to exterior light fixtures that control and direct light downward and use of colors and textures that blend better with the surrounding landscape.

Alternative B (Proposed Action)

The cumulative effects would be changed primarily due to the removal of the existing eight roofed structures associated with recreation residences. The removal of these structures from the lake would diminish the overall presence of recreation residences and development around Parksville Lake. These buildings visually stand out along the shoreline due to their vertical scale and character which contrasts with the horizontal character of the shoreline. This contrast makes them conspicuous and noticeable at greater distances from the shoreline in comparison to surrounding docks and decks with lower, more horizontal profiles.

Once these roofed structures are removed by the time permits are renewed in 2028, the surrounding shoreline would appear less developed. Remaining structures may go unnoticed without the roofed structures attracting attention to the shoreline. The allowed expansion of recreation residences, water-use improvements and outdoor living improvements would not lower the overall scenic integrity of the lake setting because they would be improved in such a way that repeats form, line, color, texture, pattern and/or scale common to the landscape character.

The overall intended effect would be consistent with achieving a HIGH Scenic Integrity Objective. The public would not be precluded from enjoying a landscape that is predominantly undeveloped in appearance with the exception of public facilities and roadways.

Alternative C

The cumulative effects for Alternative C would be more like those described for Alternative A than Alternative B. The prominent presence of the eight roofed structures on the lake would contribute to a decrease in scenic integrity as described in the direct and indirect effects but to a lesser extent than Alternative A. When considered in addition to other roofed structures on the lake, the cumulative effect would be consistent with achieving a MODERATE level of scenic integrity due to greater visibility of these types of structures in comparison to other approved improvements.

Existing Condition of Special Use Permit Holders

The valued landscape character for the permit holders on Parksville Lake and the Tellico River areas of the CNF can generally be described in much the same context as the general public. Permit holders value the natural appearing water-based, mountain scenery with visible elements of historic and present land use contributing to the desired public sense of place for outdoor recreation in much the same way as the public. However, the primary difference between the public recreation setting and the permit holders' recreation setting is perspective.

The public views the scenic integrity for Parksville Lake and the Tellico River inversely proportional to the permit holders' views of the scenic integrity as they are primarily viewed from different locations. In this way, the permit holders affect the scenery as viewed by the public disproportionately greater than the public affects the scenery as viewed by the permit holders. In addition, permit holders also affect the scenery of other permit holders. Nonetheless, the responsibilities bestowed to permit holders for compliance with scenery objectives of the Cherokee National Forest should be commensurate and equitable with the privileges granted by the permit. As such, in much the same manner that the selection of an identified alternative outlined in this Environmental Assessment can affect the public's recreation setting, both positively and negatively,

the selection of an alternative can also affect the permit holders' recreation setting, both positively and negatively. The Revised Standards and Guideline alternatives developed for Recreation Residences and the Master Site Plan for Camp Cherokee have been developed to provide equitable solutions to both the desired public recreation setting and the desired permit holders' recreation setting. In contrast to the effects of alternative selection to the public, this section focuses on the effects of alternative selection to the permit holders.

Recreation Residences

As previously discussed, the 62 recreation residences located around Parksville Lake and the 7 located near the Tellico River are all privately owned but reside on publicly owned land. The recreation residence program has a rich history and has been a part of National Forest System (NFS) lands virtually since the beginning. In discussing the existing condition of special use permit holders, it is impossible to put today's management situation for recreation residences on the Cherokee National Forest into perspective without first putting it into a national context by framing the national program's history.

The first residence permit was issued in 1906 on the Angeles National Forest in California, shortly after the birth of the U.S. Forest Service in 1905. As part of the turn of the 20th century "Back to Nature" movement and for the first 30 years of the agency, the establishment of residential tracts on NFS lands was not only condoned, but encouraged. As the fledgling agency was working to define itself, cabins were viewed as an opportunity for permit holders to have a stake in forest management and protection of forest resources. In addition, such permitted uses helped legitimize recreation as part of the U.S. Forest Service's mission. Over the next 30 years and into the 1960's; however, there was slow growth in the establishment of residences as debates began arising over the highest and best uses of the land. Such debates led to conflicting and competing uses between private residences and public recreation. As a consequence, the last residential tracts were established in the 1960's. Since then, agency policy has been to "deny applications for construction of new facilities, except where they would replace similar existing facilities" (Forest Service Manual 2300, Section 2347.03(4), 2006). In essence, agency policy restricts the development or establishment of new residential tracts, lots, and residences, but allows the reconstruction of existing residences provided such reconstruction is consistent with the applicable Forest Land and Resource Management Plans.

Today, recreation residences remain a valid use of national forest System land. They provide a unique recreation experience to a large number of owners of recreation residences, their families, and guests. There are over 14,000 recreation residences nationwide on 94 National Forests and in all of the Regions, which accounts for nearly 22% of land use authorizations for the agency. This also equates to approximately 10,000 acres of some of the highest valued NFS lands. With residences primarily being located adjacent to rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water, this real property value has been estimated upwards of \$1 billion. The land use fee for recreation residences is assessed annually at 5% of the appraised value of the land, which accounts for approximately \$14 million per year nationwide. This fee is deposited to the U.S. Treasury and not directly to the Forest Service for management of the residence program.

A brief history of the recreation residence program for the Cherokee National Forest has been provided in the "Background" section of this Environmental Assessment. The story of the existing management situation for recreation residences on the Cherokee National Forest, as well as nationally, is a direct reflection of its long history and the changing times. In terms of user expectations, laws, agency policies and procedures, technologies, improved access, family size, proximity to communities, and the economy to name a few – over time, recreation residences have

changed from “cabins in the woods” to “homes in the woods.” This change over the past 75+ years has affected user patterns with residences, whereby the “cabin in the woods” model served as a backwoods retreat for hunters and fishermen to enjoy, today the “home in the woods” model serves as a comfortable escape for families and extended families and guests to enjoy the great outdoors away from the hustle and bustle of a fast-paced, technology driven world. Of course these changes did not occur overnight, but gradually through the generational succession of permit holders and agency policies over a long period of time. Therefore, a more detailed discussion of recreation residence history, past policies, and practices on the Cherokee National Forest will be provided to assist the reader in getting “up-to-speed” on how the purpose and need for the proposed action has been established as a result of this history, the changes in user expectations, and the changes in management practices and philosophies.

Cabin numbers are referenced throughout this document and therefore likely require some explanation. The cabin sites located on Parksville Lake were originally organized as the “Parksville Lake Summer Home Area.” The area was divided into tracts, or “blocks,” and each block into lots, and each lot contained a cabin. There are 4 blocks and each block contains lots with lot numbers associated. Although the date is unknown, each cabin was eventually assigned a corresponding sequential number 1 through 66 for ease of identification. For example, a cabin is designated as Lot #23 of the Block 18-C tract, Cabin #43, of the Parksville Lake Summer Home Area, but generally referred to as “Cabin 43”. Over time, some cabins have been destroyed, lots converted to alternate public uses, renumbered, etc. Because of this, there currently exists Cabin #63 through 66, Cabin #12A, and no Cabin #2, 13, 40, or 41 for a total of 62 cabins. Each of the lots located on Parksville Lake was originally surveyed with monuments, field notes, and plats. Many, but certainly not all, of these original surveys and on-the-ground evidence of the surveys have been lost, forgotten, or the information fragmented over time. However, the associated acreages have remained unchanged and have been passed on through each generation of permit holders; therefore, the Forest has maintained an accurate account of the total acreage of each lot, which is important for reconciliation of fees for the permitted use. In circumstances where survey information cannot be found, it presents challenges to the agency and permit holders in identifying what improvements are located within the lot boundaries. In addition, the agency has allowed many improvements, such as lakeshore improvements, to be developed outside of those lot boundaries.

The 7 Tellico River cabins have a slightly different history in terms of naming conventions. Whereas much, if not all, of the land encompassing the Parksville Lake Summer Home Area was acquired through transfer agreement with the TVA in the 1940’s, the Tellico River area was mostly acquired through purchase in the 1920’s, 30’s, and 40’s. The tracts were also more loosely described than on Parksville Lake, with tracts being named “Pheasant Fields Summer Home Area,” “Tellico River Area,” and “Spivey Summer Home,” all being located within, more or less, a mile of each other.

Although there is a long history of recreation residences on the Cherokee National Forest, with close to the same inventory of recreation residences existing today as did over 50 years ago, one thing is for certain, not one cabin exists today as was originally constructed – although there are still several cabins that have had minimal modifications and still retain much of the same character and form as originally built.

To some degree, the Cherokee National Forest has had Standards and Guidelines since the beginning. The early cabin owners had to rely on the terms and conditions written into the permit, which provided little substantive guidance on design, location, or maintenance. In the 1940’s, the Forest adopted standards for construction and maintenance of residential improvements in handbook

format for incorporation as part of the permit. This latter model of standards has withstood testament of time and is the model that is still used today (See attached exhibits for Design and Construction Standards for Summer Homes of the 1940's, 50's, and today). For the most part, the design and construction standards established in the 1940's have not changed much, with exception of setting maximum standards (as opposed to only minimum standards) for cabin size, and the addition of standards for docks, decks, TV antennas, and other amenities that have come to be "expected" with any home (or lake home) in today's society. The addition of an "Operation and Maintenance Plan" incorporated into the permit in 1994 helped provide additional guidelines on not only what improvements could be constructed, but how the permit holder could maintain those improvements, including maintenance of vegetation around the lot.

In whole, the design and construction standards have never exceeded 3 pages and the maintenance plan 4 pages. With such little guidance and/or identification of strict policies requiring adherence, the design and construction standards as well as the operation and maintenance plan have received across-the-board interpretation by both the permit holders and the agency. As such, over time, situations arose where permit holders were allowed to construct or maintain improvements that exceeded the standards of the time or were located outside lot boundaries. There were also situations where permit holders were not allowed to meet standards, either the written standards or implied standards via acquiescence of the agency to strictly interpret and/or enforce those standards. Although in many cases it was likely never the intent of the agency or permit holder to exceed written standards, the vagueness of the standards and room for broad interpretations throughout the history of the program has created a situation where there are currently few consistencies between the existing standards and the recreation residences as they exist today. However, it would be incorrect and misleading to infer from this broad statement that the term "inconsistencies" is synonymous with "willful non-compliance". As agency administration of recreation residences has ebbed and flowed with regard to adherence to residence standards, so has documentation of approval for residential improvements. The Forest has seen generations where improvements were meticulously documented and approved and generations where documentation was minimal to non-existent. There are also many situations where site-specific requests were purposefully approved to exceed standards without modification to the programmatic standards to conform with such site-specific approvals, therefore further contributing to inconsistencies and inequalities with the written standards among permit holders. It is not the intent of this statement or this assessment of the existing condition to judge whether or not such residential improvements that exceed or are inconsistent with standards is appropriate or not, but rather to highlight that it is a reality. In addition, this reality is not unique to the Cherokee National Forest, but is consistent with the recreation residence program nationwide.

Another factor that should be considered in discussing the existing condition for permit holders is the agency's inability to quickly and efficiently address and approve project requests for recreation residences. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires the agency to follow a specific process in evaluating proposed actions on National Forest System lands. This process is designed to help federal agencies make better informed decisions about actions they undertake on federal lands and how those actions might affect resources and people. Without going into detail about the process itself, for which this Environmental Assessment is a part of, it is important to note how this process contributes to the purpose and need for new standards and guidelines for recreation residences. Currently, any action performed or proposed by permit holders above and beyond routine maintenance requires documentation in the NEPA process in one form or another. The level of documentation depends on the scope of the request. There are basically 2 ways to document compliance with the NEPA, 1) on a programmatic level, or 2) on a site-specific level. The existing

condition for recreation residence approvals beyond normal routine maintenance is the latter, site-specific approach. In this manner, each individual request submitted by permit holders beyond what would be considered maintenance undergoes its own NEPA process specific to the individual request. This process, depending on the scope and complexity of the request, generally takes from 6 months to a year (or more) to complete. What this Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines and Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan Environmental Assessment is intended to be is a programmatic level analysis. Using this approach, the agency should be able to put in place a system where the approval process could be days, weeks, or months (for the most complex of requests that may not specifically be addressed this analysis) rather than many months or years. It is common for the Forest to receive a dozen or more project requests annually from recreation residences and Camp Cherokee, with varying degrees of scope and complexity that require site-specific NEPA analysis.

Camp Cherokee

The history of Camp Cherokee has also been briefly described in the “Background” section of this Environmental Assessment. In much the same way as the recreation residence history has affected the current management situation, so has the history of Camp Cherokee affected its current management situation. Camp Cherokee has seen a similar history as recreation residences on the Cherokee National Forest in the context of the ebb and flow of documentation, changing agency policies and practices, development of site plans, and interpretation of permit standards, operations, and maintenance. It is somewhat evident from the records that there has historically been less agency provided guidance to Camp Cherokee than for recreation residences with respects to having a long history of established “standards and guidelines” or operating plans. However, the camp currently has in place a Hazard Safety Plan and Operational Plan for Camp Cherokee for the term of the current permit (through December 31, 2025) and also has a fairly long history of Site Development Plans for the permit area. It is also somewhat evident, based on the age and distribution of facilities at Camp Cherokee, that there has been less frequent and substantive improvements to the camp over time than has occurred with recreation residences. For this reason, much of Camp Cherokee still retains much of its traditional character and infrastructure.

In response to specific camp infrastructure needs, increased financial abilities by the permit holder to make improvements, and changing program needs, Camp Cherokee submitted a long-range Master Site Plan to the Forest Service for review and approval in 2007. This new plan supersedes the previously submitted and approved 5 year Site Development Plan for Camp Cherokee that was approved by the Forest Service via a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact in 2003. Many (but not all) of the projects that were approved in the 2003 plan, as well as other earlier plans, have been implemented at Camp Cherokee. Many of the approved but not yet implemented components, such as construction of a lodge, are also incorporated into the new Master Site Plan. This new Master Site Plan is not intended to have a “sunset” date, such as 5-years, but rather intended to serve as a longer-term plan for implementation. It was developed by a professional planning consultant in cooperation with a Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan Development Committee and Forest Service input.

In addition to the agency’s need to respond to the permit holder’s request for approval of the plan, there is also an agency need to more efficiently address and approve project requests by Camp Cherokee in compliance with the NEPA. Earlier site-specific NEPA processes for approving camp projects have proven to be cumbersome and inadequate at addressing both urgent needs for the camp (such as drinking water system upgrades) and longer-term solutions related to permit area and program planning (such as responding to changing program needs and changing user expectations and demographics). Therefore, in much the same way as discussed in the existing condition for

Recreation Residences, this programmatic level NEPA approach to approving the Master Site Plan should expedite the environmental review process for approving future Camp Cherokee projects that are consistent with the Master Site Plan.

Direct and Indirect Effects to Special Use Permit Holders

The Direct and Indirect Effects to Public Recreation Resources has effectively outlined and disclosed the physical differences that permit holders would retain, gain, or lose on the permit area, depending on which alternative is selected. Therefore, the physical differences that permit holders would retain, gain, or lose on the permit area will not be reiterated in the Direct and Indirect Effects to Special Use Permit Holders. This section will disclose Direct and Indirect Effects to Special Use Permit Holders in the context of 3 primary effects that selection of each alternative would potentially have on permit holders: 1) impacts to recreational and traditional values; 2) economic impacts to permit holders; and 3) impacts to permit administration. The term “traditional values” as used herein relates primarily to the permit holders’ intrinsic worth for objects, places, and customary practices.

Alternative A (No Action)

Recreation Residences

Impacts to Recreational and Traditional Values

As disclosed in the effects to Public Recreation Resources, selection of the No Action alternative would be essentially the status quo. The current Design and Construction Standards for Summer Homes and 2003 Operation and Maintenance Plan would continue to guide the development, alteration, and operation of the lot and associated improvements. The continued application of these standards would present no measurable effect to permit holders and their guests in terms of recreational and traditional value. All existing improvements and uses would, in practical terms, be grandfathered under this alternative, despite the lack of a “grandfather” clause in the Design and Construction Standards for Summer Homes or 2003 Operation and Maintenance Plan. Such grandfathering has been customary practice by the Cherokee National Forest, however, remains at the sole discretion of Authorized Officer in charge. Selection of this alternative could likely be perceived as a positive effect to those permit holders who have improvements that are proposed for modification or removal in Alternatives B and C. But in practice, this decision in and of itself would result in no net gain or loss of recreational or traditional value for permit holders.

Economic Impacts to Permit Holders

There would be no economic impacts to permit holders under Alternative A since selection of this alternative would not in and of itself result in a net economic gain or loss to permit holders. Economic gain under Alternative A would be derived from permit holders with improvements below the maximum standards requesting and receiving authorization to construct, reconstruct, or alter improvements to conform to the maximum Design and Construction Standards for Summer Homes. However, the continued presence of recreation residences that exceed the current standards and guidelines continues to raise potential for perceived economic loss by permit holders at or below the current standards. In other words, the non-uniformity to the current standards would continue to present inequitable economies between holders exceeding standards and those below or meeting standards.

Impacts to Permit Administration

Selection of Alternative A would have no measurable effect to Permit Administration. Holders would continue to submit project proposals to the agency for improvements beyond routine maintenance. In addition, improvements that are undocumented in the permit would continually need to be identified, requested for approval, and independently reviewed and authorized at the Authorized Officer's discretion, regardless of their age, history, or conformance with standards since there are no "grandfathering" clauses in the permit or current standards and guidelines that imply their automatic approval. The agency would continue to process each site specific request (for both existing and new improvements) on an individual basis with a timeframe of 6 months to a year or more for completion, depending on scope of the proposal. Proposals clearly not meeting the standards would continue to be denied or, at the Authorized Officer's discretion and after a site specific review process, could be authorized as has been non-uniformly applied by the agency in past practices in surrogate to grandfathering clauses or implied adoption of new standards via acquiescence of the agency to enforce the written standards. Many standards would continue to be open for interpretation by permit holders and the agency. Due to the volume of requests and long processing times, field inspections and monitoring of recreation residences would continue to be limited.

Under the current standards and guidelines, there would continue to be considerable flexibility in their interpretation and implementation. Therefore, the agency and permit holders would likely continue to experience inconsistencies in their practical application. Most standards and guidelines would still require site specific environmental review and approval by the agency prior to undertaking virtually all activities, with exception of maintenance. Due to the timeframe for approving activities, permit holders would continue to experience long wait times for review and approvals.

Recreation Residence 14

Impacts to Recreational and Traditional Value

Selection of Alternative A would have no measurable effect to the recreational and traditional value of Recreation Residence 14. Recreation Residence 14 would serve as a noncommercial recreation residence. Therefore, there would be no change in the character or use of the authorized improvements from noncommercial to commercial, with the exception of approved incidental rentals at the Authorized Officer's discretion.

Economic Impacts to Permit Holders

Selection of this alternative would affect the permit holder for Recreation Residence 14, although it is difficult to determine if the effect could be measured positively or negatively. Without authorization to convert the residence into a rental cabin for Lake Ocoee Inn & Marina, the marina and residence owner would likely choose to either A) pursue a separate NEPA decision to convert the residence to a rental cabin or B) sell the cabin and improvements on the open market or C) use the residence as the recreation residence permit is intended, which is for noncommercial recreation.

With option A, the holder may incur additional cost recovery expenses in agency processing fees. With option B, the holder may or may not be able to sell the improvements for a financial gain. With option A or B, a net economic gain or loss would be immeasurable at this time. With option C, there would be no measurable economic effect to the permit holder. However, the perception of a negative effect to the permit holder would likely occur with option C since the permit holder would likely not need a recreation residence for his personal use since he currently resides in a caretaker

cabin associated with the Lake Ocoee Inn & Marina permit and purchased Recreation Residence 14 with the primary intent to convert it into a rental cabin.

Impacts to Permit Administration

Selection of Alternative A would have some effect on permit administration, in terms of workload and prioritization for the agency and permit holder. The holder would likely pursue one of the options outlined above, which for option A or B would likely entail additional application processing fees and timeframes by the Forest Service and permit holder.

Camp Cherokee Master Site Plan

Impacts to Recreational and Traditional Value

Selection of Alternative A would have no measurable effect to the recreational and traditional value of the permit holder. Camp Cherokee would continue to be an organizational camp serving children, youth, adults, and family units.

Economic Impacts to Permit Holders

Selection of this alternative would likely have no economic effect to the permit holder for Camp Cherokee. However, without authorization to implement the Master Site Plan, Camp Cherokee would likely choose to pursue a separate NEPA decision to approve the Master Site Plan. The permit holder may incur additional agency processing fees related to a new/separate NEPA process to approve the Master Site Plan. In addition, if the Master Site Plan is not authorized for an extended period of time, or at all, the holder may incur additional expenses related to project specific NEPA reviews for implementing each component of the plan.

Impacts to Permit Administration

Selection of Alternative A would have a similar effect to the permit holder and agency as disclosed in the Economic Impacts to Permit Holders above. Although selecting Alternative A would result in no direct impact to permit administration since No Action would not change the current administration of the permit, the holder would likely pursue additional site specific approvals (including NEPA) for implementing each component of the plan. Additional site specific projects impact the agency's workload and project priorities, which contributes to long wait-times for paperwork processing and hinders the agency's ability to process special use requests in a timely manner. Selecting Alternative A would not streamline the approval process for projects proposed by Camp Cherokee.

Alternative B (Proposed Action)

Recreation Residences

Impacts to Recreational and Traditional Values

Selection of Alternative B would potentially have both positive and negative effects to recreational and traditional values for permit holders. The recreational value of all permit holders would be enhanced by allowing larger cabins, larger water use improvements, more outdoor living improvements, and lake viewing corridors. The holders' values of these additions to the permit area can be measured in terms of carrying capacity for the recreation residence. Since the capacity could be greater, in terms of people per residence, then more extended family and guests could occupy the recreation residence at one time, which contributes towards a greater shared recreation experience as well as enhanced opportunities for more people to enjoy each recreation residence annually.

The removal or modification of 6 boat houses, 1 two-story deck, 1 pavilion, and 5 diving boards to comply with Revised Standards and Guidelines would have no measurable direct effect on the recreational value to the 10 permit holders with these improvements, with exception of diving boards (For a list and photos of affected structures, see 'Alternative B Affected Parties and Economic Impacts Summary', Appendix I). These improvements could be modified to meet the standards without a net loss of recreational opportunities. 6 boathouses could be converted into docks with no loss in parking spaces for boats. In fact, it is likely that the boathouses could be converted into docks with an increase in parking spaces for boats. The two-story deck could be converted into a one-story deck with equal or greater carrying capacity since the standards allow for increased deck and dock capacity in the Lake Zone as opposed to the No Action alternative. The pavilion could be converted into an open-air deck by removing the roof with no loss in carrying capacity. The 5 diving boards could be modified to meet the 40 inch height above summer pool requirement with no net loss in the recreational opportunity associated with diving boards. However, the recreational value of a high dive is likely different from the recreational value of a low dive and the loss of a high dive would likely negatively affect those permit holders required to remove or modify them to meet the 40 inch height above summer pool standard. There could be an indirect negative effect to the 2 permit holders with a two-story deck and pavilion in that the permanent shade structures provide relief from the sun and may contribute towards increased use of these decks on sunny or rainy days. The loss of these 2 constructed roofs may decrease the decks' usage by the permit holders, which would likely create a negative effect to the recreational value for those 2 permit holders.

The removal or modification of 6 boat houses, 1 two-story deck, 1 pavilion, and 5 diving boards would have a negative effect on the traditional value of the 10 permit holders who have these improvements (see 'Alternative B Affected Parties and Economic Impacts Summary', Appendix I). Most of these improvements have a long history on the lake and with the permit holders. The required modification or removal of these improvements would likely contribute a loss to the 10 permit holders' intrinsic value for these objects, their sense of place, and associated memories. This loss is immeasurable in terms of monetary value. It is somewhat likely that some nostalgia for these objects could be recovered to the permit holders by them choosing to recycle and repurpose the materials elsewhere on the lot; however, the traditional value of these objects to the 10 permit holders would likely be irreplaceable at an equal or greater intrinsic value. Any new traditional values associated with the modified or replaced improvements would likely not be realized for another generation or two of permit holders.

Although the 10 permit holders who would be required to modify or remove the 6 boat houses, 1 two-story deck, 1 pavilion, and 5 diving boards would be negatively affected in terms of their traditional values, it is likely that the remaining 52 recreation residence permit holders on Parksville Lake might experience both positive and negative effects on their recreational and traditional values as a result of the removal or modification of these improvements. It is likely that some of the 52 remaining recreation residence permit holders would experience an increase in recreational value by increasing their unobstructed views of the lake shore from their residences. It is also likely that some of the 52 remaining recreation residence permit holders would experience no net gain or loss to their recreational values if these objects are modified or removed and are not within their cabin's viewshed. It is also somewhat likely that at least a few of the 52 remaining recreation residence permit holders might experience a loss in their traditional values by the modification or removal of these improvements, especially if they had some personal or experiential connection with the 10 permit holders, their improvements, or their viewsheds of those improvements that are modified or removed.

Economic Impacts to Permit Holders

Selection of Alternative B would result in both positive and negative economic impacts to permit holders. Economic impacts resulting from selection of Alternative B are assessed in terms of market value, replacement value, and demolition costs.

There is not adequate data to support a dollar figure assessment of market value resulting from selection of Alternative B. However, one could reasonably assume that the potential market value for recreation residences over time would likely increase as permit holders invest to construct and/or reconstruct larger cabins, larger water use improvements, more outdoor living improvements, and establish lake viewing corridors to meet the new maximum standards. Holders that already meet or exceed the new standards would have limited abilities to increase their market value, with exception of upgrading materials, systems, reconstruction, or other value adding activities that comply with the new standards and guidelines. However, since the new standards were primarily designed to meet or exceed the existing condition for most recreation residences, it is probable that few recreation residences would not have the ability to increase the size or scope of at least some of their improvements, which would add market value to their recreation residence. Therefore, for the large majority of recreation residences, selection of this alternative would result in a positive economic impact to those permit holders that choose to invest in “building out” to meet the new standards and guidelines over time.

Under Alternative B, there are 10 permit holders that would be required to remove or modify the following improvements by 2028 to meet the new standards and guidelines: 6 boat houses, 1 two-story deck, 1 roofed deck (pavilion), and 5 diving boards (see Appendix I, “Alternative B Affected Parties and Economic Impacts Summary”). Of the 13 structures that would be required for modification or removal, only 3 structures are estimated to have a life expectancy beyond 2028, which would be 15 years from the date of this analysis. The 2028 modification or removal deadline would allow the majority of affected permit holders to utilize the affected structures for their full estimated life expectancies. These permit holders would incur direct and indirect negative economic impacts in terms of demolition costs and the replacement value of those improvements. Replacement value refers to the value of labor and materials that would likely have been invested by the permit holders for construction of these improvements in 2010 dollars. The costs are summarized in Appendix I “Alternative B Affected Parties and Economic Impacts Summary.” In other words, in today’s dollars, the boat house at Cabin 10 would likely cost, on the high end, \$4,000 to replace in-kind, which includes labor and materials. The estimated costs and values were quantified in consultation with Forest Service engineers, with costs and values based primarily on 2010 RS Means construction estimates. Since actual costs and replacement values may differ from the estimates, a range of estimates was given from “low” to “high,” with the actual costs and values likely being within that range. In addition, these permit holders, if they choose to modify or replace their improvements with ones that meet the new standards, would also likely incur direct expenses associated with such modifications or replacement. It would be difficult to predict what the cost would be for modification or replacement of each improvement since the scope of such modifications or replacements would be at the discretion of the permit holder, provided they are within the scope of the new standards and guidelines.

For instance, the permit holder for the pavilion at Cabin 35 may choose to simply remove the roof of their deck. The economic impact to the permit holder, on the high end, may be the direct demolition cost of the roof removal (\$2,400) and the indirect replacement value (\$10,600) for a total direct and indirect economic impact of \$13,000. The market value of the recreation residence, based solely on the removal of the roof on the deck, may or may not be affected. However, as discussed earlier, the

potential market value for the recreation residence could still be increased by investing additionally in construction or reconstruction of additional improvements to meet the new standards. Without such investment, which would be at the holder's expense and discretion within the scope of the new standards and guidelines, the holder would likely experience a net economic loss equaling that of the demolition costs plus the replacement value of the roof.

A different example would be the permit holder for the boat house at Cabin 22. In this example, the holder might choose to demolish the boat house and replace it with a lake shore deck/dock combination. Since it is unlikely that the boathouse could be removed and sold on the open market at no net loss, the holder would likely incur demolition expenses, a loss in replacement value, and additional expenses related to constructing the new deck/dock combination. Therefore, using Appendix I, their total direct costs, on the high end, might be \$3,500 for demolition, \$15,000 for constructing a new deck/dock combination meeting the new standards between now and 2028, and an indirect loss of \$15,000 in the replacement value of the demolished boat house, for a total direct and indirect economic impact of \$33,500. Although there are true and measurable direct and indirect economic effects associated with the physical change on the permit area from a boat house to a deck/dock combination, there is not adequate data to suggest that the permit holder would experience a net loss or gain in the market value of their residence as a result of changing their shoreline use from a boat house to a deck/dock combination. If other holder-owned improvements, such as the cabin, were at or below the maximum standards and guidelines, then the holder would still have opportunities to invest in expansion of the cabin (or other improvements below maximum standards) to increase the overall market value for their residence improvements. These actions would likely recoup any negative direct or indirect economic effects that might result from a change in the boat house to a deck/dock combination. If the holder's other improvements (such as the cabin) already meet or exceed the new standards, then the holder would have limited abilities to increase their market value, with exception of upgrading materials, systems, reconstruction, or other value adding activities that comply with the new standards. In case of the latter, it would likely be more difficult, but not impossible, for the holder to recoup any negative direct or indirect economic effects from changing the boat house to a deck/dock combination meeting the standards.

Another indirect negative economic effect could occur to the 6 permit holders with boat houses. Since boat houses provide protection from the elements, these permit holders may experience increased depreciation to their boat values as a result of being kept in an uncovered environment. However, this wear and tear associated with being exposed to the elements could be reasonably mitigated by use of a canvas or tarp cover at a nominal expense, which is what most recreation residence permit holders without a boat house utilize. The marina also rents covered boat slips in the event these permit holders still desired a constructed shelter for their boat rather than a canvas or tarp cover. Also, as with the current standards, the Revised Standards and Guidelines would require that boats be removed from the permit area when not in use, particularly at the end of the recreation season.

There are many different scenarios in assessing the total economic impacts to permit holders, but the evidence is fairly clear and straightforward that the majority of recreation residence permit holders have potential to indirectly experience an economic benefit from selection of this alternative and 10 permit holders would experience a direct and indirect negative economic impact, both in terms of direct demolition costs and indirect replacement value with a questionable effect (either positively or negatively) to their potential market value.

Impacts to Permit Administration

Selection of Alternative B would result in a positive effect to permit administration in 3 primary ways: 1) Permit holders and agency officials would have more clear and detailed guidance on what, where, and how improvements could be added, altered, and maintained at the recreation residence. This guidance would provide for a fairer, more balanced, and equitable solution to the challenges facing the management of the recreation residence program, most of which were discussed in the Existing Condition of Recreation Residence Permit Holders. ; 2) The agency would be in a better position to provide better customer service to recreation residence permit holders in responding to requests for additions and alterations in the permit area. As discussed earlier in the existing condition, depending on the scope of projects, permit holders could likely expect the agency's review and approval process to take days, weeks, or for complex requests perhaps a month or so as opposed to the current wait time of 6 months to a year or more. In addition to providing better customer service to recreation residence permit holders, it is likely the agency could provide better customer service to all permit holders and applicants by spending less time and resources on processing recreation residence requests annually.; 3) Selection of this alternative would bring the vast majority of recreation residences into compliance with the permit and the Forest Plan's scenery objectives. Compliance with the permit would primarily be achieved by explicitly "grandfathering" certain improvements not meeting the standards and by providing a pathway for holders to gain compliance over time by provisions that allow for phased compliance when the holder proposes alterations of certain improvements. Compliance with the Forest Plan would be achieved by modifying or removing those improvements found to not meet a high level of scenic integrity as prescribed in the RLRMP for Parksville Lake.

Recreation Residence 14

Impacts to Recreational and Traditional Values

Selection of Alternative B would result in a positive effect to recreational value and no effect to traditional value for the permit holder of Recreation Residence 14. The recreational value of Recreation Residence 14 would be enhanced by converting it into a rental cabin. This conversion would allow more of the general public to utilize the cabin as opposed to just the permit holder, their family, and guests. It would also provide the public an opportunity to have a recreation residence experience without owning a residence or being a guest of a permit holder. The traditional value of the residence would change from a noncommercial use to a commercial use. This change should not affect the traditional value of the permit holder since the permit holder is the one requesting the conversion. It is also unlikely that the conversion would result in any effect to other permit holders' traditional values since it is not in view of or adjacent to any other permit holder.

Economic Impacts to Permit Holders

Selection of Alternative B would result in a positive economic impact to the permit holder of the recreation residence and the marina. Converting the recreation residence to a rental cabin would provide this permit holder with additional revenues.

Impacts to Permit Administration

Selection of Alternative B would result in a positive effect to permit administration. Converting the residence into a rental cabin would eliminate one recreation residence permit and incorporate the use into the Lake Ocoee Inn & Marina permit. It is estimated that each permit likely equates to an average of 8 hours annually to administer by the agency, not including processing time for permit holder initiated requests and amendments.

Camp Cherokee

Impacts to Recreational and Traditional Values

Selection of Alternative B would have a potential positive effect to recreational values and potentially no effect to traditional values of the permit holder. The recreational value to the permit holder would be enhanced with approval of the Master Site Plan. The plan was commissioned by the permit holder with input from the Forest Service to meet the permit holder's and agency's objectives for use of the organizational camp, with the overall intent that the plan would provide for greater and higher quality recreational opportunities for youth, adults, and families in an outdoor setting. The Master Site Plan was designed to incorporate the traditional values of the camp while also providing opportunities for new development that, to the greatest extent possible, would not significantly change its traditional character.

Economic Impacts to Permit Holders

Selection of Alternative B would have a potential positive economic impact to the permit holder. Approval of the Master Site Plan would allow the permit holder to invest in improving the existing facilities which would help prolong their serviceable life expectancy. Additionally, the camp could invest in new developments that could potentially help the permit holder attract more clients and realize additional revenues to support the staffing, maintenance, and upkeep of the infrastructure and the camp programs. Approving the Master Site Plan via this programmatic environmental analysis would also reduce the number of and costs associated with conducting site-specific environmental analyses for implementation of each development proposal requested by the permit holder. Although the permit holder would still be required to submit a site-specific proposal for each phase of development well in advance of implementation, the environmental review and approval process would be greatly expedited and less costly for the permit holder and the agency, both monetarily and in terms of time expended.

Impacts to Permit Administration

Selection of Alternative B would have a potential positive impact to permit administration. In much the way as described in the Impacts to Permit Administration for recreation residences in Alternative B, the permit holder and the agency would benefit from having more clear and detailed guidance on what, where, and how improvements could be added, altered, and maintained. The agency would also be in a better position to provide better customer service to the permit holder in responding to requests for additions and alterations in the permit area. As discussed earlier in the recreation residence effects for Alternative B, Camp Cherokee could likely expect the agency's review and approval process to take days, weeks, or for complex requests perhaps a month or so as opposed to the current wait time of 6 months to a year or more. In addition to providing better customer service to Camp Cherokee, it is likely the agency could provide better customer service to all permit holders and applicants by spending less time and resources on processing Camp Cherokee requests annually. Also, as discussed in the Direct and Indirect Effects to Public Recreation Resources, implementation of the Master Site Plan would likely result in developments that would be consistent with achieving the high scenic integrity objective of the Forest Plan. These actions assist permit administration by creating consistent guidance by the agency to permit holders and the public that Camp Cherokee would contribute towards achieving the scenery objects outlined in the Forest Plan.

Alternative C

Recreation Residences

Impacts to Recreational and Traditional Values

Selection of Alternative C would likely result in the same economic impacts to permit holders as described in Alternative B, with exception of the 10 permit holders with 6 boat houses, 1 two-story deck, 1 pavilion, and 5 diving boards. Alternative C would “grandfather” roofed structures and high diving boards in the Lake Zone, with the exception that boat houses must be modified to have no constructed sides (walls) by 2028 or removed (at the permit holder’s discretion). Therefore, the 1 two-story deck, pavilion, and 5 diving boards would be able to remain as-is with the caveat that when the permit holder proposes major rehabilitation, replacement, alteration, or expansion of any water use improvement, a condition of approval by the Forest Service would include a stipulation that these improvements must be modified to meet the standards and guidelines or removed. So selection of Alternative C would likely result in no effect to the recreational and traditional values of the permit holders with these features (two-story deck, pavilion, and 5 diving boards) until such time as they choose to do work above and beyond maintenance of those features. Essentially, these features (two-story deck, pavilion, and 5 diving boards) could be maintained indefinitely.

Of the 6 boat houses, only 5 have constructed sides. The boat house at Cabin 10 (a simple pole structure with a metal roof) would meet the standards and guidelines and therefore would not require modification or removal. However, next time the roof is due for replacement, it would need to be replaced with asphalt shingles or other non-metallic composition.

The 5 permit holders with walled boat houses would be required to remove the walls by 2028 with an outcome similar to that being shown in the picture below. Holders would also have the discretion to remove the boat houses rather than modifying them.



Simulated view of a boat house without side walls from TVA’s Shoreline Management Initiative: An Assessment of Residential Shoreline Development Impacts in the Tennessee Valley, Final Environmental Impact Statement, p. 4-44.

In modifying or removing these 5 boat houses, permit holders would likely experience similar effects to their recreational and traditional values as described in Alternative B, except probably to a lesser degree since the boathouses would remain, although in a different form. The required modification or removal of these improvements would likely contribute a loss to the 5 permit holders’ intrinsic value for these objects, their sense of place, and associated memories. This loss is immeasurable in terms of monetary value. The traditional value of these objects to the 5 permit holders would likely be irreplaceable at an equal or greater intrinsic value. Any new traditional

values associated with the modified or replaced improvements would likely not be realized for another generation or two of permit holders.

Economic Impacts to Permit Holders

Selection of Alternative C would likely result in the same economic impacts to permit holders as described in Alternative B, with exception of the 10 permit holders with 6 boat houses, 1 two-story deck, 1 pavilion, and 5 diving boards. The permit holders with the unenclosed boat house, two-story deck, pavilion, and 5 diving boards would not be required to modify or remove these improvements under Alternative C, therefore they would experience the same potential positive economic effects described in Alternative B for the vast majority of recreation residences. For the 5 permit holders with walled boat houses, they would potentially experience the same negative direct and indirect economic impacts as described in Alternative B, except likely to a lesser monetary degree. These 5 permit holders would likely incur lesser demolition costs, lesser loss of replacement value, and no measurable effect to their market values since the boat houses could remain in much the same form and function, except without walls. Although no dollar estimates were derived by the agency to assess the demolition and replacement values for walls of boathouses, it would be reasonable to assume that these costs and values would be at the low end of the demolition cost estimates portrayed in Appendix I since that estimate was based on removal of the boat houses and not just the walls. It is also likely that the replacement values of the walls would be a fraction of the low end replacement values shown in Appendix I for the same reason.

It is difficult to assess the total economic impacts to permit holders, but the evidence is fairly clear and straightforward that the majority of recreation residence permit holders have potential to indirectly experience an economic benefit from selection of this alternative and 5 permit holders would experience a direct and indirect negative economic impact, both in terms of direct demolition costs and indirect replacement value with a questionable effect (either positively or negatively) to their potential market value. However, as discussed earlier, the market values of recreation residences with boat houses would likely not be affected with this alternative since the boat houses would still remain.

Impacts to Permit Administration

Selection of this alternative would result in the same impacts to permit administration as described in Alternative B, with exception to those effects described for compliance with the Forest Plan standards for scenic integrity. Since all roofed structures would likely remain on Parksville Lake indefinitely, the Forest would perpetuate the perception of achieving a moderate level of scenic integrity for Parksville Lake rather than the Forest Plan prescribed high level. The impact this has on permit administration of recreation residences is the creation of inconsistent guidance by the agency to permit holders and the public that it is acceptable for recreation residences to not contribute towards the overarching goal of achieving a high level of scenic integrity for Parksville Lake, as prescribed by the current Forest Plan.

Recreation Residence 14

Impacts to Recreational and Traditional Value

Selection of Alternative C would have the same potential effect to recreational and traditional values to permit holders as described in Alternative B.

Economic Impacts to Permit Holders

Selection of Alternative C would have the same potential economic impact to permit holders as described in Alternative B.

Impacts to Permit Administration

Selection of Alternative C would have the same potential impacts to permit administration as described in Alternative B.

Camp Cherokee*Impacts to Recreational and Traditional Value*

Selection of Alternative C would have the same potential effects to recreational and traditional values to permit holders as described in Alternative B.

Economic Impacts to Permit Holders

Selection of Alternative C would have the same potential economic impacts to permit holders as described in Alternative B.

Impacts to Permit Administration

Selection of Alternative C would have the same potential impacts to permit administration as described in Alternative B.

Cumulative Effects to Special Use Permit Holders

This section discloses the Cumulative Effects to Special Use Permit Holders. The effects to permit holders resulting from selection of an alternative described in this Environmental Assessment would primarily be in terms of direct and indirect effects, which have already been described. There are few reasonably foreseeable actions from the permit holders, Forest Service, or other entities that would result in a cumulative effect to permit holders in terms of recreational and traditional values, economic impacts, or permit administration

There are, however, a few reasonably *conceivable* actions that could result in cumulative effects to special use permit holders associated with this analysis, which are worth mentioning briefly. Although they are unlikely to be considered “foreseeable” actions, as the actions may never occur, they are: 1) the development of the Corridor K Highway 64 project; 2) the conversion of recreation residence tracts to an alternative public use; 3) the exchange of term permit areas for private in-holdings within the Forest boundary; 4) environmental mitigation measures for the Ocoee River, including lake levels that would remain at summer pool all year.

The development of Corridor K would likely result in widening the road and increased traffic, which would have the potential to have an economic, recreational, and traditional value impact to 12 recreation residences (including Recreation Residence 14), the Lake Ocoee Inn & Marina, and the Polk County 911 building located along Highway 64. The marina and 911 building are not within

the scope of this analysis, but are mentioned here simply to highlight that these are also permit holders that would likely be affected by this project if it occurred.

The conversion of term permit areas to alternative public uses and/or revocation of term permits for specific and compelling reasons in the public interest would only result from a separate Forest planning decision. This decision would disclose that the presence of existing term permit areas would not be compatible with other planned uses of National Forest System land and that their discontinuation was clearly in the public interest. Under such circumstances, a recreation residence term permit, organizational camp term permit, or other term permit where there are privately owned improvements on public land would only be revoked after written notice and a reasonable time provided for removal of the structures. The likelihood of this occurring is extremely small; however, the agency retains the ability to exercise this authority. Obviously, this would affect permit holders in many different ways.

The exchange of permit areas for private in-holdings within the Forest boundary would affect permit holders, although such effects of exchange would be mutual with respect to permit holders and the agency. In other words, an exchange would not occur if it was not clearly in the public's interest and mutually in the private interests. Therefore, the cumulative effects of this situation would likely be positive across the board.

The Environmental Protection Agency has recommended to the TVA that lake levels for Parksville Lake remain at summer pool as a mitigation measure for preventing contaminated sediments associated with the historic copper mining industry from oxidizing when exposed to air and being transported as a result of fluctuating water levels. Although the Forest Service is not aware of any final decisions on this matter, if the lake were to remain at summer pool all year, it would affect permit holders. Permit holders with docks, decks, retaining walls, and other submerged constructed features on Parksville Lake would have limited abilities to maintain or alter those improvements – which has traditionally occurred during the winter pool months. During winter pool, piers and other infrastructure are exposed and easily accessible for maintenance, replacement, etc. Permit holders would likely have short windows of time during TVA scheduled water draw-downs for their dam maintenance to do permit holder maintenance, replacement, etc. of their lakeshore improvements. Such draw-downs would likely not occur annually.

Existing Condition Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are the non-renewable, physical remains of prehistoric and historical human activities. They are subject to damage or destruction from land disturbing activities, including those associated with vegetation manipulation and road construction. Area disturbance can damage or destroy the historical, cultural, or scientific integrity of historical or prehistoric resources. Disturbance of historical sites, such as old cabins, can reduce the ability to reconstruct the recent history of settlement in the local area. Disturbance of ethnographic sites, such as traditional Native American campsites or burial grounds, can reduce the interpretive significance of the site or can infringe on religious rites.

The current direction on the CNF is to protect significant cultural resources from adverse impacts that may occur as the result of land disturbing activities, and to inventory NFS lands in order to locate and evaluate all cultural resources. This policy is based on adherence to Federal and state laws

and regulations. Cultural resources are closely coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

In compliance with executive order 11593, the National Historic Preservation Act, NEPA, and USFS regulations (FSM 2360), a cultural resource inventory should be performed to determine if potentially significant cultural resources would be affected by the project.

Direct and Indirect Effects Cultural Resources

Alternatives A, B (Proposed Action), and C

Pursuant to and in compliance with the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office for the management of Recreation Residences located on the Cherokee National Forest (Appendix H), and in compliance with the Section 106 and 110 processes of the National Historic Preservation Act as stipulated in the Programmatic Agreement between the Forest Service and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office, and the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Architectural and Engineering Documentation of historic structures and the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for documentation and treatment of Historic and Cultural Landscapes, and the Cherokee National Forest standards and guidelines for the treatment of historic/forest landscapes, a thorough study of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) will be performed by the proponent of a project that proposes alterations that could potentially affect historic structures and their settings and that also has the potential to affect archaeological deposits that have not yet been identified or evaluated for National Register eligibility.

The terms and conditions of these investigations, analyses and report preparation and submission will be stipulated in an Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) permit issued to the permittee by the Forest Service.

Cumulative Effects Cultural Resources

All Alternatives

There are no known cumulative effects.

Civil Rights

None of the alternatives would have disproportionate adverse health or environmental impacts to minority groups, women, or low-income populations. It is difficult to assess the degree of impact each alternative presents to these groups due to other variables. The best information suggests that when assessing the effects of each alternative on minority and low-income groups, the effects are minimal and not disproportionate to these groups when compared to other groups.

Physical Factors

Existing Condition Soil and Water

The analysis area includes a general area surrounding 66 recreation residences, and various elements planned for construction on 14 acres of the Camp Cherokee expansion. Camp Cherokee and 59 of the residences are located along Parksville Reservoir and seven residences are located along the Tellico River. Land that surrounds the recreation residences and Camp Cherokee is National Forest while Parksville Lake is owned by the TVA.

The Ocoee River from river mile (RM) 0.0 to Ocoee #3 including Parksville Reservoir is considered to be Tennessee Exceptional Waters and Outstanding Natural Resource Waters. The use classification from RM 17 to the Ocoee Power House #3 includes "fish and aquatic life",

“recreation”, “livestock watering and wildlife”, and “irrigation”. Parksville Reservoir is on the Tennessee 303d list of impaired water bodies and is considered to be Category 5, impaired for one or more uses. Causes of impairment are copper, iron, zinc, and loss of biological integrity due to siltation. Pollutant sources are mill tailings, mine tailings, and contaminated sediments from abandoned mines.

Tellico River is considered to be Exceptional Tennessee Waters and Outstanding Natural Resource Waters from Tellico Reservoir to North Carolina State line. The surface water use classification of Tellico River from RM 28 to the state line is classified by the State of Tennessee as “domestic and industrial water supply”, “fish and aquatic life”, “recreation”, “livestock watering and wildlife”, irrigation”, and “naturally reproducing trout stream”.

Soil series within the analysis area consist of Junaluska, Junaluska-Citico Complex, Lostcove-Kenner Complex, Brookshire, Pope, Spivey, Sylco, Brevard, and Keener. Soil suitability and limitations are found in the project file (NRCS 2009).

Direct and Indirect Effects Soil and Water

Alternative A (No Action)

The no-action alternative would result in a continuation of existing conditions within the project area. Effects to the soil and water resource from managing structures such as decks, docks, gates, exterior lighting, diving boards, water slides, and/or making structural changes to the recreation residences would be negligible regardless of alternative. However, effects to the resources may differ between alternatives depending on the location of structures like decks, picnic tables, barbecue pits, and patios. Currently, the holder is permitted to maintain the vegetation around the recreation residence by pruning vegetation that is encroaching on walkways, roofline, driveways, and power lines; to mow and trim established lawns; to fertilize; and to use over the counter herbicides without specific approval.

Pruning vegetation in specific areas addressed in the operation and maintenance plan should have no effect on the soil and water resource. However, a number of the residence owners are controlling the entire vegetative understory between their residence and the lake. Reducing the vegetation exposes soil to rainfall impact, increases the erosion potential, and increases surface runoff. Reducing vegetation along the lake shore would also lead to bank destabilization and accelerated bank erosion.

The extent of fertilizer currently being used is unknown. The need for fertilizer would differ based on the desired condition of the residence owner and soil characteristics surrounding the residence. Recommendations on fertilization cannot be given without specific soil analysis. Fertilization may be needed to enhance growth of vegetation to prevent excess erosion. Also, excess amounts of fertilizer can leach through the soil or run off and enter surface waters.

Under current management herbicide type, amount, timing of application and application methods are unknown. Therefore, the effects to the soil water resource are unknown. The RLRMP gives direction on herbicide application near surface waters. Forest -Wide Standard 15 states that no herbicide should be applied within 30 horizontal feet of lakes, wetlands, or perennial or intermittent springs and streams and no herbicide is applied within 100 feet of and public or domestic water supply. Selective treatments after a site-specific analysis and use of aquatic-labeled herbicides may occur within these buffers only to prevent environmental damage such as noxious weed infestations.

The constructed living space within the lake zone is not restricted to one place or size, and some are located along shoreline. Activities that occur around the constructed living space reduce vegetation

which increases the erosion potential. Spaces located adjacent to the shoreline may lead to bank destabilization.

Toilet outhouses should not impact the water resources if they are developed in accordance with RLRMP standards and guidelines and/or state sanitary laws.

Camp Cherokee would continue to use the permitted 44 acres and there would be no additional disturbance to the area.

Alternatives B (Proposed Action, and C

Implementing any action alternative would require the residence owner to create a maintenance plan in consultation with an authorized official before implementing methods of vegetation management. This would enable the authorized official to determine potential impacts from proposed activities and insure that the RLRMP standards are being met on a site specific basis. Mitigation measures will be determined when a maintenance plan is submitted. At this time effects to the soil and water resources are unknown because activities have not been proposed. However, the implementation of any action alternative allows for a determination of effects since the maximum area and potential activities are known. Overall, the implementation of any action alternative should reduce impacts to the soil and water resources from activities occurring around the recreation residences.

Implementing a 50' lake zone would help reduce sedimentation occurring from adjacent slopes. This zone would help prevent erosion and filter eroded soil. Vegetation along the shoreline would also reduce bank erosion.

Herbicides would be approved by an authorized official before application. Appropriate use of herbicide would include only applying herbicide with a method consistent with the RLRMP and only using herbicide types covered in other environmental assessments (EA) such as the Non-native Invasive Plant Control (USDA 2008c).

Fertilizers would be applied on a more site specific bases. The need for fertilizer would differ based on the desired condition of the residence owner and soil characteristics surrounding the residence. Recommendations on fertilization would be determined from soil analysis. This would prevent excess amounts of fertilizer from entering into surface waters. Fertilization would also enhance growth of vegetation surrounding the residence which would help prevent erosion.

The constructed living space within the lake zone would not exceed 250 square feet and would be in one location. This would minimize disturbance and reduce erosion along the lake shore.

Implementing any action alternative would allow Camp Cherokee to expand the camp to 58 acres. There would be up to 14 acres of new disturbed areas for additional facilities. This would permanently change the additional 14 acres from forest to open grass areas, building, roads, and/or trails. NFSR 302A would increase .32 miles, NFSR 101 would increase .90 miles, other internal roads would increase by .3 miles, and 2.43 miles of road would be added. In general effects from these potential additions to Camp Cherokee include an increase in erosion from, roads, trails, ditch lines, heavily used areas, and temporarily from disturbed soils during construction. The majority of the soils found within this area consist of the Brevard soil series. These soil types are made of colluvium material which is susceptible to slippage and slumpage when disturbed. Extra caution should be used when disturbing these soils. Soil descriptions and limitations are listed in the project file. Water yield, surface runoff, and overland flow are likely to increase from impervious surfaces such as roof tops, paved areas, roads and trails. A more site specific analysis of each project will be conducted once project proposals are submitted and specialist input is requested from an authorized official. Mitigation measures will be determined from site specific analysis of each project.

Cumulative Effects Soil and Water

Alternative A (No Action)

The existing condition describes conditions that would be associated with Alternative A. The Ocoee and Tellico River watersheds contain mostly public land with some private lands. A variety of land uses including development, farming, pasture, and woodland management generally occur on private land within this watershed. Herbicide use is likely associated with some land uses on private land, although the amount is not known. Herbicide use also occurs for a variety of silvicultural reasons including site preparation and timber stand improvement, and also eradication of non-native invasive species on NFS lands. These treatment areas have historically been widely scattered across the Forest and mitigation measures are applied to treatment areas to minimize any herbicide-related effects to the soil and water resources. Prescribed burning and some wildfires have also occurred within these watersheds.

Years of copper smelting in Copper Hill, Tennessee lead to extensive vegetative loss and erosion. Erosion was very extensive for years leading to high levels of contaminated sediments entering into Ocoee River and Parksville Lake. Recreational activities on Parksville Lake such as boating and camping are very popular. Camping tends to be more concentrated on some of the smaller islands which has resulted in nearly a complete loss of vegetation. The soils on these islands are bare, compacted, and are eroding into the lake. Designated recreational activities also occur within the 44 acre Camp Cherokee. High levels of sediment have entered Tellico River from the Tellico OHV area in North Carolina.

With implementation of Alternative A the project proposal would not occur on NFS lands. Cumulative effects for the soil and water resources could not be accurately determined without complete knowledge of activities that occur around the recreation residences. There would be no changes to the cumulative effects from activities such as deck or dock building, gate establishment, and/or structural changes to the recreation residences. Under this alternative Camp Cherokee would not be expanded, therefore there would be no changes in the cumulative effects.

Alternatives B (Proposed Action) and C

Cumulative watershed effects that result from past and current conditions in affected watersheds are described in Alternative A. Implementing any action alternative would decrease sediment entering into Parksville Lake. In general the soils around the recreation residences would begin to recover and erosion would decrease as vegetative cover increased. Implementing any action alternative would help insure proper use of herbicides and fertilizers. Activities that occur around the recreation residences would be known and effects could be minimized.

Implementation any action alternative would increase the size and use capacity of Camp Cherokee. Permanent change from forest to facilities, roads, trails and open areas would increase the water yield, soil disturbance, water runoff and decrease infiltration of water during the existence of the camp. An increase in visitation to the camp would also increase dispersed recreational activities within the camp boundary.

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