

File Code: 2720

Date: July 16, 2024

Dear Recreation Residence Permittee:

Wildfire season is already upon us. Many of you have likely already done your annual fire clearance. Thank you for your diligence to help protect not only your cabin, but the surrounding Forest. Additionally, when you perform this critical annual maintenance, you are also protecting our firefighters. If your cabin has good clearance, it makes their job safer and easier should a fire break out in your area.

Fire clearance is a requirement as part of your permit's operating plan and referenced in Section III. A, A.1 and 5, and C.

A. OPERATING PLAN. ...*The operating plan shall outline steps the holder will take to protect public health and safety and the environment and shall include sufficient detail and standards to enable the Forest Service to monitor the holder's activities for compliance with the terms of this permit. ... The operating plan shall, at a minimum, address requirements for the following:*

- 1. Maintenance of vegetation, tree planting, and removal of dangerous trees and other unsafe conditions.*
- 5. Fire protection.*

C. MAINTENANCE OF IMPROVEMENTS. *The holder shall maintain the authorized improvements and permit area to standards of repair, orderliness, neatness, sanitation, and safety acceptable to the authorized officer and consistent with other provisions of this permit. Standards are subject to periodic change by the authorized officer when deemed necessary to meet statutory, regulatory, or policy requirements or to protect NFS resources.*

Additionally, the right of the Forest Service to inspect the permit is outlined in III Section F.

F. MONITORING BY THE FOREST SERVICE.

The Forest Service shall monitor the holder's operations and reserves the right to inspect the permit area and authorized facilities and improvements at any time for compliance with the terms of this permit. The holder shall comply with inspection requirements deemed appropriate by the authorized officer.

The obligations of the holder under this permit are not contingent upon any duty of the Forest Service to inspect the permit area or authorized facilities or improvements. A failure by the Forest Service or other governmental officials to inspect is not a defense to noncompliance with any of the terms of this permit.

Annual Fire Clearance Inspections have already begun in some Cabin Tracts. As there are a lot of new cabin owners who may not be familiar with our requirements, we are including a sample inspection form as well as a handout from Cal Fire illustrating the minimum clearance requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact the Descanso Prevention Office at 619-445-1725.



Sincerely,

KYLE SMITH
District Ranger

Enclosure: Sample Inspection Form and Cal Fire Defensible Space Flyer