Archaeological Reconnaissance Report

#05-14-444, Glen Marie Compartment
For, Addendum #4, Forest Glen Summer Tract & Septic Tank Replacement

Shasta-Trinity National Forest
South Fork Management

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JERRY VAN HEES
Acting District Ranger

SHERRY CHILCOTT
Archaeologist
Background

The South Fork Management Unit of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest (STNF) has one recreation residence tract located in Forest Glen, California. The tract has eleven recreation residences that are currently under 20-year special use permits which are expiring December 31, 2010. The Forest Service is preparing to reissue new Term Special Use Permits for eight of the recreation residences that have satisfactory septic systems. These permits will expire on December 31, 2028. Annual permits will be issued for three of the recreation residences which will allow permit holders additional time to bring the septic systems into compliance with current Trinity County Environmental Health Codes.

The total area of the Forest Glen Recreation Residence Tract is approximately five acres. A tract map is available in the project file which is located at the Shasta Lake Ranger Station in Mountain Gate, CA. A brief summary of the tract follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRACT NAME</th>
<th>LOCATION (Township, Range, ¼ Sec, Section)</th>
<th>TOTAL LOT ACREAGE (Approximate)</th>
<th># OF RECREATION RESIDENCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest Glen</td>
<td>T1S, R7E, SE ¼, Sec.13; T1S, R8E, SW ¼, Sec.18; T1S, R8E, NW ¼, Sec.19; T1S, R8E, SW ¼, Sec.29</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based upon the findings of a 2007 Consistency Review, on December 20, 2007, Forest Supervisor Sharon Heywood determined that Forest Glen and the four other recreation residence tracts located on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest (STNF) are consistent with the direction, management prescriptions, and standards and guidelines described in the 1995 STNF Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

Forest Service Manual 2721.23e and Forest Service Handbook 2709.11, section 41.23, give specific direction for the management of recreation residence tracts. All improvements in the tracts must be maintained in compliance with this policy.

As part of the permit renewal process, the eleven recreation residences and lots were inspected by STNF personnel on July 1 and July 2, 2009. Noncompliance issues were identified and photographed on each lot. The data was compiled and organized to prepare individual letters for each permit holder to inform them of the noncompliance issues requiring correction prior to issuance of new permits. The letters were mailed to permit holders on December 7, 2009. Permit holders were advised to contact the Forest Service to schedule reviews of their letters to ensure their understanding of the compliance requirements.

Land and Resource Management Plan. The Forest Service will analyze the proposed action using an interdisciplinary process to meet the underlying purpose and need of the proposed action, and to be consistent with the STNF LRMP. The project is expected to meet the following Forest-wide standards and guidelines, and the Management Area direction:

Chapter 4 – Standards and Guidelines 16. j.: “Continue existing recreation tracts under special use permit unless a site-specific higher public use has been determined.”

Chapter 4 – Late Successional Reserves – Standards and Guidelines from the Northwest Forest Plan Record of Decision (ROD): “Existing developments in Late Successional Reserves (LSR’s) such as campground, recreation residences, ski areas, utility corridors and electronic sites are considered existing uses with respect to LSR objectives and may remain, consistent with other standards and
guidelines. Routine maintenance of existing facilities is expected to have less effect on current old-growth conditions than development of new facilities. Maintenance activities may include felling hazard trees along utility rights-of-way, trails, and other developed areas.”

Chapter 4 – Management Area 20 – South Fork Mountain: “this Management Area is highly suitable for timber, range, wildlife, and dispersed and developed recreation activities……there are 12 recreation residences under special use permit.” (Note: currently there are only 11 recreation residences in the Forest Glen Recreation Residence Tract)

The tract is located in Management Area 20, South Fork Mountain and is in a Tier 1 Key Watershed (STNF LRMP; Ch.4). This area south of Forest Glen along the South Fork Trinity River is also proposed for addition to the Wild and Scenic River system with a recreation classification. The LRMP EIS identifies scenery and anadromous fisheries as the Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs) for this portion of the river.

The tract is also located in a Late-Successional Reserve. The purpose of this prescription is to provide special management for Late-Successional Reserves and threatened and endangered (T&E) species. Sensitive fish and wildlife species, which are dependent on riparian areas, will be managed in accordance with the standards and guidelines for Riparian Reserves.

The standards and guidelines from the Northwest Forest Plan ROD provide specific management direction for riparian areas in the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS). The primary objectives of the ACS are to maintain and restore healthy, properly functioning aquatic systems with high water quality.

To implement the objectives of the ACS, specific management direction is described in prescription IX, Riparian Management in the LRMP (pg. 4-59). The objective of this prescription is to maintain or enhance riparian areas, wildlife and fisheries habitat, and water quality by emphasizing streamside and wetland management. Further direction is described in the Riparian Area Standards and Guidelines (pg. 4-24) are: maintain riparian area values, particularly when locating and constructing new roads and trails, and identify and treat riparian areas that are in a degraded condition. Riparian management direction simultaneously facilitates the maintenance of dispersion habitat requirements for the northern spotted owl and other late-successional dependent species.

Although there are no standards and guidelines for scenery, the LRMP Visual Quality Objective (VQO; pg. 4-27 and 4-28) for Highway 36 adjacent to the Forest Glen tract is “Retention” (in the foreground, as seen from Highway 36). Similarly, the Visual Quality Map Visual VQO is also “Retention” (as seen from Highway 36 and the South Fork River). Retention means that the management activity is not visually evident. The foreground considers a ¼ to ½ mile view from the highway.

The Built Environment Guide (BEG; pg. 196) provides guidance for the North Pacific Province as follows: "Emphasize muted earth tones such as beige, brown, tan and ochre. Use dark colors for metal roofs – green, black or brown, or dark blue in maritime areas.”

**Proposed Action**

Through the NEPA process, STNF resource specialists will analyze the effects of the long-term permit renewal for eight recreation residences in the Forest Glen tract in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based upon the findings in this analysis, the Deciding Officer will make
Continuance Determination which will determine if all, some or none of the lots within the tract will be authorized for continued recreation residence use for the next permit period.

In addition to the Consistency Review described above, the decision to reauthorize long-term permits is also based upon the findings that the recreation residences and ancillary improvements on each lot are in compliance with regional and national policy, and the terms of the special use permit. Permit holders are afforded sufficient time to achieve compliance. If compliance is not achieved by the deadline, an annual permit may be issued to allow extra time to come into compliance.

There will be no new ground disturbance associated with this permit renewal with the exception of three septic system replacements which are described and analyzed in a separate NEPA document. These three lots are numbers 8, 11 and 12.

The permit reissuance is primarily an administrative action as no new improvements or facilities will be added as a result of this process. Existing permitted improvements are expected to generally remain as is, with the exception of the following: reduction of the square footage of five existing sheds that are oversized, removal of one deck and one outhouse, new paint on roofs or siding, maintenance-related repairs or reconstruction, detached tent platform removals and general lot cleanup.

Also, through the NEPA process, resource specialists will analyzed the impacts of replacing three septic systems to determine potential effects to sensitive and/or critical habitat and special-status resources. Although there is no evidence that the systems have failed, all three septic systems have wood tank/cesspools that require replacement with approved, non-porous tanks. Additionally, two of the systems do not appear to have leach lines which are mandated by environmental health codes. New, approved leach lines will be installed on these lots. All three of the decisions for the proposed new systems have been reviewed and permitted by the Trinity County Environmental Health Department. Forest Service resource specialists have also inspected the proposed septic system sites.

The approved replacement designs were configured to minimize vegetation removal, increase the distance between the septic systems and the river where possible, and avoid new ground disturbance. The septic systems will be modified and brought into compliance as follows:

Lot 8 legal location: Township 1S, Range 8E, Sec. 18 SE1/4 of SE1/14, Humboldt Meridian. The existing wood septic tank/cesspool will be removed and a new 1,000-gallon polypropylene tank will be installed in the same location. Inspectors were unable to locate the existing leach lines. Approximately 57 feet of high-capacity infiltrator leach line will be installed on the southeast side of the cabin in an “H” design at the farthest practicable point from the river. No native vegetation will be removed.

Lot 11 legal location: Township 1S, Range 8E, Sec. 19 NE1/4 of NE1/4, Humboldt Meridian. The existing wood septic tank/cesspool will be removed and a new 1,000-gallon polypropylene tank will be installed in the same location on the northwest side of the cabin. The existing 32 feet of perforated leach line will be replaced with the equivalent length of high-capacity infiltrator leach line and will be installed perpendicular to the cabin and parallel to the river. No native vegetation will be removed.
Lot 12 legal location: Township 1S, Range 8E, Sec. 19 NE1/4 of NE1/4, Humboldt Meridian. The existing wood septic tank/cesspool on this lot is located under the deck, which does not meet current sanitation codes. There is no existing leach field. The wood tank will be removed and a new 1,200-gallon polypropylene tank will be installed on the southeast side of the cabin. The new high-capacity infiltrator leach line will extend 50 feet to the southeast, perpendicular to the cabin and parallel to the river. The existing above-ground propane tank will be relocated approximately 15 feet to the west of the present location to accommodate the septic tank installation. One eight-inch diameter sprouting big leaf maple stump (*Acer macrophyllum*) and three small (one foot to three feet tall) Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) seedling/saplings will be removed.

**Purpose and Need**

Recreation residences are a valid use of National Forest System lands, and an important component of the overall National Forest recreation program. It is Forest Service policy to continue recreation residence use and to work in partnership with holders of these permits to maximize the recreational benefits of the residences [Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2347.1].

NEPA direction in FSH 1909.15.41 requires an environmental analysis be conducted to determine the effects of continuing recreation residence use and implementation of the decision. It has been more than five years since recreation residence use was analyzed in the LRMP, so additional environmental review and documentation is necessary.

**Decision to be Made and Responsible Officials**

The District Ranger is the responsible official for the appropriate NEPA decision notice documenting the permit renewal. The decision to be made is whether to continue the use of the Forest Glen Recreation Residence Tract as is, and authorize and reissue the eight Recreation Residence Term Special Use permits.

**Previous Archaeological Investigations**

Previous Archaeological investigations have occurred within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the following Archaeological Reconnaissance Reports: ARR #05,14,444, Glen Marie Compartment Inventory, 1983; ARR #05-14-444, Addendum #1 for, Glen Marie-Additional Site, 1984; ARR #05-14-444, Addendum #2 for, Charlton Timber Sale, 1986; ARR #05-14-444, Addendum #3 for, South Fork Trail Bridge, 1995. Addition reconnaissance was conducted for this ARR #05-14-444, Addendum #4, for Forest Glen Summer Home Tract Permit Reissuance.
Attaches are Archaeological Site records for the residences. Due to funding constraints the home will be managed as eligible properties. As soon as funds becomes available, the tract maybe evaluated.