

DECISION MEMO

Special Use Permit Re-Issuances for Various Existing Facilities Located on the Chiloquin Ranger District

Fremont-Winema National Forests
Chiloquin Ranger District
Klamath County, OR

PROPOSED ACTION: The Chiloquin District Ranger is proposing to re-issue special use permits allowing various existing facilities to remain on National Forest lands. The permits will cover the following facilities and their locations:

- CenturyTel Telephone Lines: multiple locations throughout the Ranger District
- Klamath County Chiloquin Solid Waste Transfer Station: T34S, R7E, Section 35
- US Geological Survey Swan Lake Point Rain Gauging Facility: T36S, R9E, Section 32

There are no proposed changes to the authorized facilities.

SCOPING: General public scoping was started by placing the proposed project in the Summer 2004 Winema Schedule of Proposed Actions. Klamath Tribal Directors were contacted on April 2, 2004, to initiate Tribal scoping. A public scoping letter was mailed on April 5, 2004. The mailing list of individuals and organizations contacted is on file in the project record.

No comments pertaining to the permit re-issuances were received by the Forests from the Klamath Tribes or the general public.

DECISION AND REASON FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION: I have reviewed the interdisciplinary analysis and have decided to allow re-issuance of the special use permits for these uses of National Forest lands to proceed. These permits benefit the public through continued telephone, solid waste disposal and weather data collection services. The permits are expected to be issued in August 2004. All three permits are authorized for 5 years from the date of re-issuance.

In an effort to protect cultural resources in the area, the following stipulation will be added to the special use permit re-issued to the US Geological Survey for the rain gauging facility at Swan Lake Point:

“The permit holder will be restricted to the existing road entrances/prisms and areas where the facilities are located. Cross country travel is prohibited.”

This action falls within FSH 1909.15 Section 31.2, Category 15, “Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are no changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.”

No extraordinary circumstances exist that might cause the action to have significant effects; therefore, the action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. Based on the environmental analysis and past experience, the effects of implementing this action will be of limited context and intensity and will result in little or no effects to either the physical or biological components of the environment.

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS: This action is consistent with the management direction, including standards and guidelines, as outlined in both the Fremont and Winema Forest Land and Resource Management Plans as amended, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement documenting the analysis for the Plans. This action will comply with requirements of the Clean Water Act.

No significant impact is expected on cultural resources or Proposed, Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive (TES) species.

No significant impact is expected on parkland, floodplains, wetlands, prime farmlands, wild and scenic rivers or ecologically critical areas. There are no anticipated significant impacts on consumers, minority groups, American Indians, women or civil rights. There are no anticipated significant impacts to Treaty and trust responsibilities with the Klamath Tribes.

There are no known significant indirect, cumulative, or unavoidable adverse effects on the environment. There is no threat to public health or safety. Implementation of this proposal meets the resource protection requirements of 36 CFR 219.17.

APPEAL OPPORTUNITIES/IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.4(a) this decision is not subject to requirements for Notice and Comment. This decision is not subject to appeal, pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215.12(f). This decision may be implemented immediately.

CONTACT PERSON: Questions regarding this decision should be directed to Catherine Callaghan, Land Use Administration, Fremont-Winema National Forests, 541-947-6326.

/s/ Rick Ragan

August 3, 2004

RICHARD RAGAN
District Ranger
Chiloquin Ranger District

Date