



File Code: 2720
Route To:

Date: JAN 22 2018

Subject: Continuation of Permitted Public Services During a Lapse in Appropriations

To: Regional Foresters

Over 77,000 Special Use Authorizations (permits) provide a variety of public services nationwide. These services are critical to local economies and especially rural communities. In the unlikely event of a lapse in Federal appropriations (shutdown), the following guidance is provided to ensure consistent Agency response. Sharing this information with your permit holders may help manage their uncertainty regarding continuity of business operations.

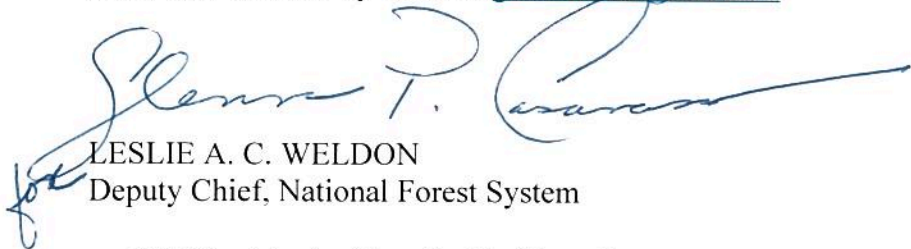
In the event of a shutdown, permitted public services that do not require day-to-day Forest Service employee administration will continue operating under approved operating plans. New applications for permits will not be accepted during a shutdown and pending applications will be deferred. Specific permitted activities (e.g., new project construction) may be suspended if a qualified third party is unable to complete Forest Service required monitoring or inspections. Such determinations should be made on a case-by-case basis. If it is determined that activities must cease, closure can be implemented through a temporary permit suspension, all or in part. If issues or concerns arise with a permitted service during a shutdown, the permit holder shall contact the authorized officer to determine the appropriate course of action.

Examples of permitted services operating under approved operating plans and which do not require day-to-day Forest Service employee administration that could continue uninterrupted pursuant to this guidance include, but are not limited to, the routine operation of ski areas, resorts, concession campgrounds, outfitting and guiding, recreation events, utilities, and communication sites, regardless of whether or not the permitted improvements are privately or federally owned.

Certain activities are considered “excepted” by the Office of Management and Budget. Excepted activities are considered essential to protect public safety and property and therefore are excluded from shutdown procedures. Forest Service employees working in excepted activities that relate to special use permits include, but are not limited to, line officers, law enforcement, avalanche forecasters, and military artillery program managers.



If you have any questions, please contact Associate Deputy Chief, Glenn Casamassa at (202) 205-1523, or by email at gcasamassa@fs.fed.us.



LESLIE A. C. WELDON
Deputy Chief, National Forest System

cc: Michiko Martin, Greg Smith, Tracy Perry