

SEP 05 2002

Department of Water Resources
Southern Region**SCOPING DOCUMENT****SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST-FAIRFIELD RANGER DISTRICT
MULTIPLE WATER TRANSMISSION PERMIT REAUTHORIZATIONS**

PROPOSED ACTION

The Forest Service is proposing to reauthorize water transmission or water diversion special use permits issued to Kent Wokersien, Charles Daniels, Shirley Peterson, the Little Smoky Water Users Association, John Sims, and the Oregon-Idaho Conference (Sawtooth Methodist Camp). The existing permits authorizing these uses expire December 31, 2002. The proposed authorizations would not allow any expansion or new construction of water transmission facilities or water diversions. Routine maintenance, to keep the existing facilities in good repair, is a condition of all new authorizations.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of these applications is to continue water transmission across National Forest System lands. The need is for domestic use and/or stockwater on private lands. Reauthorizing these uses will allow current permittees to remain in compliance with existing laws and regulations.

ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives to consider are whether the existing water transmission should be reauthorized under permit as is, reauthorized with additional mitigation measures, or if some or all of the existing permits should be allowed to expire and the permittee(s) remove their improvements from National Forest System lands. The recommended maximum permit term for all water transmission pipelines is 30 years. The recommended maximum permit term for a water diversion with a weir is 20 years.

The Wokersien permit application is for a domestic water transmission pipeline less than 12 inches in diameter. The Idaho Department of Water Resources Water (IDWR) has issued license No. 37-7154 to William F. Stewart for 0.08 cfs from the spring in NE ¼, SE ¼, Sec. 34, T2N, R14E that Mr. Wokersien uses.

The Daniels permit application is for a domestic water transmission pipeline less than 12 inches in diameter. A State Court has decreed water right No. 63-3312 to Mr. Daniels for 0.02 cfs from the spring in SE ¼, SE ¼, NW ¼, Sec. 11, T3N, R13E.

The Peterson permit application is for a domestic water transmission pipeline less than 12 inches in diameter. A State Court has decreed water right No. 63-8795 to Mrs. Shirley J. Peterson for 0.04 cfs from the spring in SW ¼, SE ¼, Sec. 19, T3N, R14E.

The Little Smoky Water Users Association permit application is for a domestic water transmission pipeline less than 12 inches in diameter. IDWR has issued license No. 63-7242 to The Little Smoky Water Users Association for 0.22 cfs from the springs in SW ¼ and SE ¼, SE ¼, Sec. 18, T3N, R14E.

37-7154

The Sims application is for stockwater and domestic water transmission pipelines 12 inches diameter or greater. John R. Sims has filed water right claim No. 37-8075 with IDWR for 0.02 cfs from the springs in NW ¼, SW ¼, Sec. 27, T2N, R14E; SE ¼, NE ¼ and SE ¼, SE ¼, Sec. 28 T2N, R14E.

The Methodist Camp application is for a weir on a tributary of High Creek and surface water diversion to the Methodist Camp for domestic use. A State Court has decreed water right No. 63-3085 to Sawtooth Methodist Camp for 0.04 cfs from the spring source/High Creek tributary in SW ¼, NW ¼, SW ¼, Sec. 3, T4N, R13E.

No new construction or expansion is proposed by any permittee. Reauthorizing these uses will allow existing permittees to maintain their constructed improvements.

Additional alternatives may be identified during this public scoping period.

PRELIMINARY ISSUES IDENTIFIED

The springs utilized for water transmission and the High Creek tributary the Methodist Camp weir is placed on are not known habitat for any listed or proposed plant, animal or fish species protected by the Endangered Species Act. However, a Biological Assessment will be done to determine if there are any affects from reauthorizing these existing special uses on threatened or endangered species that occur within the Sawtooth National Forest.

A Biological Evaluation will be conducted to determine if there will be any affect on plant, animal, or fish species listed by the Regional Forester as sensitive.

Other issues may be identified during this scoping period.

FOREST PLAN

The Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was completed in 1987 and provides direction for the management of the Sawtooth National Forest.

The Wokersien, Peterson, and Little Smoky Water Users Association permits are located in the 5J-1 Scenic Travel Route Area of the Sawtooth National Forest. The Oregon-Idaho Conference (Sawtooth Methodist Camp) is located in the 5D-1 Scenic Travel Route Area of the Sawtooth National Forest.

The Sims permit is located in the 5J General Forest Areas of the Sawtooth National Forest.

Forest-wide General Direction for special uses in the 5J-1, 5D-1, and 5J Management Areas includes; "Ensure that the land is suitable for the proposed use and the permitted area is as small as possible consistent with the intended use" (Pg. IV-61).

The Daniels permit is located in the 5G Roaded/Recreation – Developed Area of the Sawtooth National Forest. General Direction for Special Use Management in Roaded Recreation – Developed Areas of the

Sawtooth National Forest is "Permit special uses that are complementary and compatible with the kind and level of development of the Forest Service facilities" (Pg. IV-124).

PUBLIC INPUT

Public comments will help determine if there are any issues or concerns that need to be analyzed concerning this proposed permit issuance. A decision on this proposal is expected during the spring of 2000.

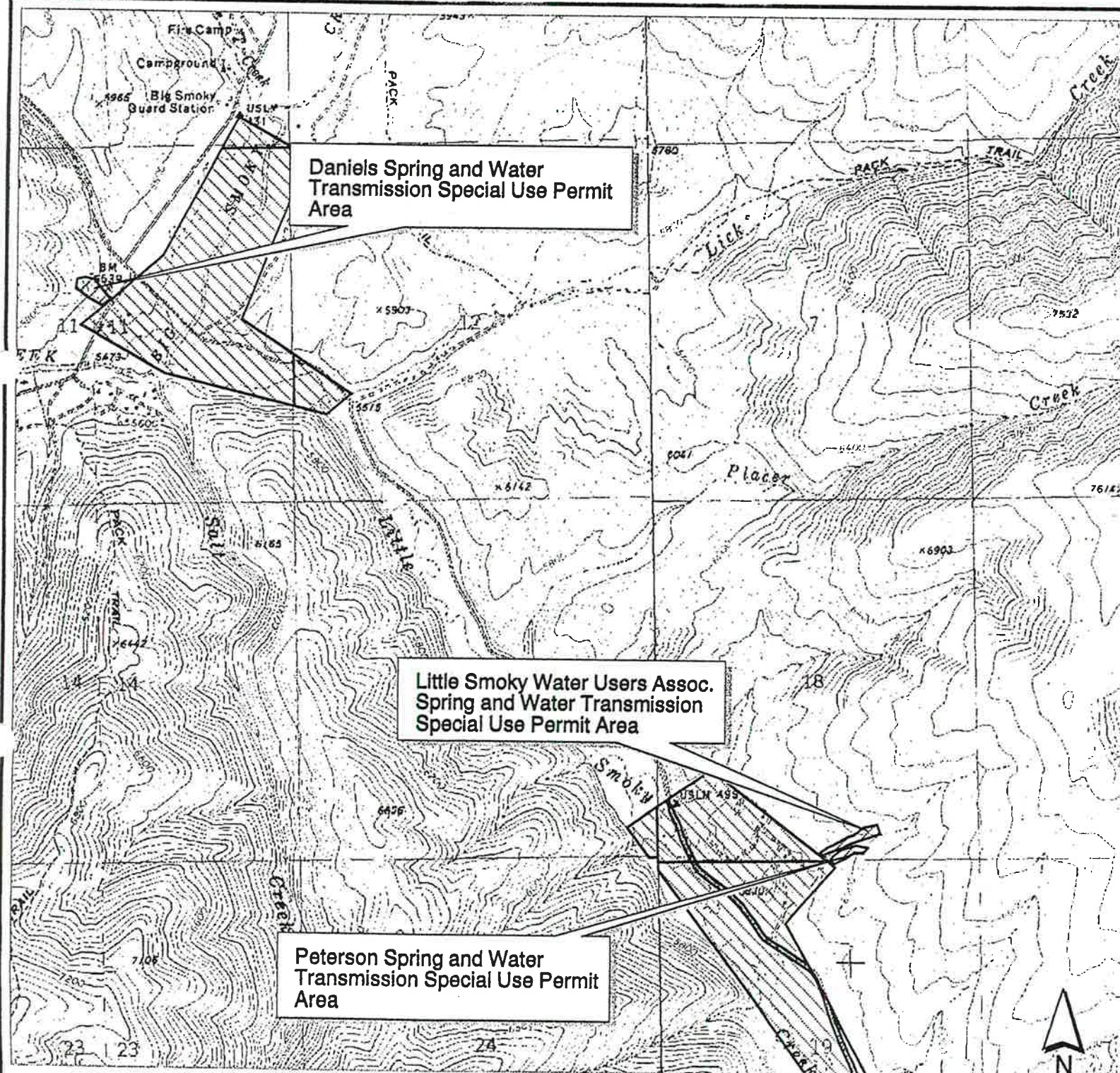
To be most helpful, written comments need to be submitted by September 30, 2002. Submit written comments on issues related to this proposal to:

USDA-Forest Service
Sawtooth National Forest
Fairfield Ranger District
PO Box 189
Fairfield, ID 83327
Attn: Joe Miczulski, Recreation Forester

Or via e-mail: jmiczulski@fs.fed.us

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 10 days.

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U.S. FOREST SERVICE
FAIRFIELD, ID



SMARTMAP

Sawtooth National Forest
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

Little Smoky Water Users

Peterson and Daniels
Water Transmission SUP

Water Permit Use Areas
Private Lands

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0 1000 2000 Feet

1" = 2000 feet



Original data was compiled from multiple source data
and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Accuracy
Standard of the Office of Management and Budget.
For specific data source dates and/or additional
digital information contact the Forest Supervisor,
Sawtooth National Forest
Twin Falls Idaho
This map has no warranties to its contents or accuracy.

Water Permits Vicinity Map

Fairfield Ranger District
Sawtooth National Forest

- District Boundaries
- State & Federal Highways
- Towns
- Rivers & Streams
- Forest Roads
- State Lands
- Private Lands
- Sawtooth Wilderness
- Fairfield Ranger District
- Sawtooth NRA
- Ketchum Ranger District

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0 2 4 6 Miles

1" = 5.0 miles



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