

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Eldorado
National
Forest

100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667
(916) 622-5061

REPLY TO: 2320

DATE: September 4, 1984

Mr. James B. Richards
Department of Fish and Game
2854 Northridge Drive
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Mr. Richards:

This refers to your request, through the Pacific District Ranger, for approval for a helicopter flight into Desolation Wilderness.

Following is a summation of the points, as I understand it, which have led to your request:

- The dam at Lake Schmidell has sustained damage due to battering by numerous logs which are floating in the lake.
- It is probable that continued damage will occur unless the logs are removed.
- It is your intent, now that the heavy use season has passed, to spend the time necessary to clear out the logs. This is a critical time period, between Labor Day weekend and the opening of hunting season - a period in which few wilderness users are likely to be encountered.
- For the most part you will pull the logs from the water by hand. But where that is not possible it will be necessary to blow some of the larger logs with dynamite.
- Most of your equipment and supplies will be delivered to the lake by horseback. However, you would like approval to drop one slingload of horsefeed and supplies by helicopter.

Considering the emergency nature of the work and the critical time period, I am approving your request with the following conditions:

1. The helicopter is approved for one in-and-out trip, and will not remain after dropping its load.
2. You must have all necessary State and County permits for blasting and for transporting of blasting material.
3. You will take precautions to assure that wilderness users in the Lake Schmidell area are aware of your activities and kept at a safe distance during blasting operations.
4. Log debris removed from the lake will be hidden from view, or otherwise disposed of in a manner so as not to be obtrusive to the wilderness user.

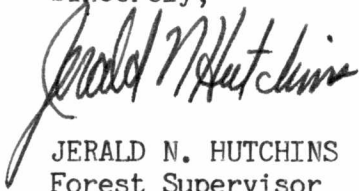
Mr. James B. Richards

2.

As you know, we are directed to keep the use of mechanical devices, including helicopters, to a minimum within designated wildernesses. In this case, we feel the impact of the helicopter use is mitigated by the service you are providing to the public. In the future, however, we would appreciate a more reasonable time period in which to consider your requests. Hereafter, please submit requests for work in the wilderness in writing through the District Ranger at least two weeks in advance.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerald N. Hutchins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

JERALD N. HUTCHINS
Forest Supervisor