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**File Code:** 2720  
**Date:** June 7, 2019

Maya Blix, Event Co-Director  
Sun Valley Tour de Force  
P.O. Box 3658  
Ketchum, ID 83340

Dear Maya,

Thank you for your proposal dated May 8, 2019 outlining your request for a Special Use Permit to host a spectator event in conjunction with the Sun Valley Tour de Force. Specifically, you propose to use a portion of the Harriman trail and adjacent National Forest System (NFS) land for a spectator event for up to 750 people that includes some limited parking, bus transportation to and from the site, grand stand seating, tents, and up to four food vendors.

Prior to acceptance of a proposal as a "formal" application, the Forest Service must screen the proposal to confirm whether or not it would be considered an appropriate use of NFS lands. A special use proposal must pass through both levels of screening to be accepted as an application for processing. Any proposal that fails one or more of the minimum requirements in the initial screening criteria are to be returned to the proponent without further consideration.

I have reviewed the proposal you submitted to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area on May 8, 2019 with my staff, and the Regional Office Special Uses Program Manager. We discussed your proposal in relationship to the screening criteria and as it applies to management direction for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Based on our review, I have determined that your proposal does not meet the initial screening criteria and thus has been rejected and will receive no further processing or consideration.

I have attached a summary of why your proposal does not meet specific screening criteria.

My staff and I are available to meet with you if you would like to discuss my decision. Please call me at 208-727-5000, to set up a time to talk.

Sincerely,

  
KIRK E. FLANNIGAN  
Area Ranger



Screening Criteria 36 CFR 251.36.54  
Sun Valley Tour de Force, Special Use Permit  
June 5, 2019

Screening Criteria not met as summarized below:

(i) *The proposed use is consistent with the laws, regulations, orders, and policies establishing or governing National Forest System lands, with other applicable Federal law, and with applicable State and local health and sanitation laws.*

Forest Service Manual 2703.2(2)(b), provides for use of NFS lands, only if, "*The proposed use cannot reasonably be accommodated off of National Forest System lands....*" The request for a spectator event on NFS land is driven by the Sun Valley Tour de Force high speed sports car event. This event takes place on the state highway and is authorized by the Idaho Department of Transportation. There are other stretches of highway in the area that can reasonably accommodate the race and affiliated spectator event that would not require the use of NFS land. This has been demonstrated by a similar event held south of Bellevue in 2018.

(i) *Initial Screening Criteria # 2, "Is consistent or can be made consistent with standards and guidelines in the applicable Forest land and resource management plan prepared under the National Forest Management Act and 36 CFR part 219."*

An event for the purpose of viewing a high speed sports car event is inconsistent with the desired condition for the SNRA as described in Appendix I of the Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan which states: "*The desired condition comprises those recreation facilities, services, and activities that enhance the ability of visitors to the SNRA to experience, learn about, and enjoy the natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife features of the SNRA, and are available and accessible to all visitors that desire to participate. The Forest Service will promote, develop, and authorize recreation activities that enhance the ability of people to experience the natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife values and resources of the SNRA, and which, while being carried out, do not substantially impair those primary SNRA values. Recreation activities that may substantially impair the natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife resources of the SNRA will not be promoted or authorized.*"

Consistent with FSM 2703.2, the Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Management Direction for Lands and Special Uses, LSGO004, states, "*Proposed special uses of National Forest System lands—such as hydroelectric development, communication sites, water developments, and utility corridors—are considered that meet public needs, are consistent with direction for other National Forest resources, and cannot be accommodated off the National Forest.*" LSGO004 includes examples of activities that should be considered for special use authorization provided they cannot be accommodated off NFS lands. This is not meant to be a comprehensive list of activities that would or would not be considered for a special use permit. The proposed spectator event can be accommodated off NFS land as has been demonstrated by past events and thus would not be considered.

The proposal conflicts with the following Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Management Direction for Recreation Resources:

- REGO03, *Address current and emerging recreation conflicts, while maintaining recreation opportunities when possible.*
- REGO04, *Manage recreation uses and facilities to mitigate degrading effects from recreation to other resources.*

- REGO05, *Manage motorized and non-motorized travel and travel-related facilities to: a) Provide for public safety, b) Meet resource objectives and access needs, c) Mitigate road and trail damage, and d) Minimize maintenance costs and user conflicts.*

The Harriman Trail is designated as a non-motorized trail designed to accommodate non-motorized activities. The proposal involves driving shuttle buses, support vehicles, and food vendor trucks on the Harriman Trail and parking in the adjacent field. This is likely to conflict with the designated uses of the trail and cause damage to the trail and surrounding vegetation.