



**FOREST SERVICE HANDBOOK
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION (REGION5)
VALLEJO, CA**

FSH 2709.11 – SPECIAL USES HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 40 – SPECIAL USES ADMINISTRATION

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Approved: VICKI JACKSON
Associate Regional Forester

Date Approved: 8/08/2006

Posting Instructions: Interim directives are numbered consecutively by Handbook number and calendar year. Post by document at the end of the chapter. Retain this transmittal as the first page(s) of this document. The last interim directive was 2709.11-2006-1 to chapter 10.

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Digest:

41.23(g)(2)(d) – Replaces previous direction for administering deck size, porches and patios.

**FSH 2709.11 - SPECIAL USE HANDBOOK
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41 – RECREATION SPECIAL USES

41.2 – Individual Use

41.23 – Recreation Residence Use

41.23g - Construction/Reconstruction Standards

2. Structures

d. Decks, Porches, and Patios

Decks, porches, and patios must be attached to the residence. Combined deck, porch, and patio size (including walkways) is limited to 60 percent of the primary structure footprint. Small recreation residences may be authorized up to 250 square feet combined total which provides a usable deck/porch/patio. Do not authorize decks/porches/patios with a combined size exceeding 800 square feet.

The location of decks/porches/patios must conform with resource concerns, the setback requirements if applicable, be approved by the authorized officer prior to construction, and where applicable, by other local agencies. Decks on only one side of the residence are preferred, but wrap-around walkways may be considered depending on total square footage.

If the area beneath a deck is used for storage, it must be fully enclosed with solid material or lattice backed by a solid material. Porches may not be enclosed to provide additional living space. The use of screens requires prior written authorization. Authorized screens must be temporary and well maintained. Do not authorize colored canvas, plastic, and tarps as enclosures.

These limitations may be waived for reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Access ramps are not considered part of the deck's size limit.