USDA Forest Service
Steps in Special Uses Proposals, Application, and Authorization Process,

**Initial Screening**
- Person or Entity Proposes To Use NFS Lands (earliest possible notice given) (36 CFR 251.54(a); FSH 2709.11, sec 12)
- Proposal Submitted to Appropriate Agency Office Presented Orally or in Writing (36 CFR 251.54(b); FSH 2709.11, sec. 12)
- Proposal Must Contain Required Information* (36 CFR 251.54(d); FSH 2709.11, sec. 11)
- Proposal Triggers Pre-Application Consideration (36 CFR 251.54(e), FSH 2709.11, sec. 12.1)
- Authorized Officer Applies 9 Initial Screening Criteria (36 CFR 251.54(e)(1)-(9); FSH 2709.11, sec. 12.2)

**Second-Level Screening**
- Proposal Meets 5 Criteria (Pre-Application Process Ends at This Point)
- Proposal Does Not Meet 5 Criteria; Proposal Denied (Pre-Application Process Ends; No Further Consideration); Proposal Advised (36 CFR 251.54(g)(1); FSH 2709.11, sec. 12.4)

**Proposal is Formally “Accepted” for Processing and Becomes an “Application”**
- Proceed with Application Processing
- Authorized Officer Evaluates Application: NEPA Requirements Apply (36 CFR 251.54(g)(2); FSH 2709.11, sec. 12.51-12.54)
- Authorized Officer Responds to Application and Renders Decision (36 CFR 251.54(g)(4); FSH 2709.11, sec. 12.6)

**Application Denied**
- Application Approved
- Application Approved With Modification

*See 36 CFR 251.54(d)(2) and (g)(3) and section 17.4 of this Handbook for requirements related to noncommercial group uses.

**See section 13 of this Handbook for direction on competitive interest.**