

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

District: Payette National Forest, McCall Ranger District
Project Name: East Fork French Creek Road Rehabilitation
Responsible Official: Lisa Klinger, McCall District Ranger
Project Contact: Brian Davis, briandavis@fs.fed.us
Scoping Period: Comments requested by March 18, 2019
Submit Comments: Via webform on the project webpage
Project Webpage: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55427>

Project Description: The FS 260 East Fort French Creek Road (aka Trapper Cabin Road) is one of the more heavily used areas on the McCall Ranger District due to its access to motorized and non-motorized trails as well as hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. This project will address resource impacts by mitigating unauthorized motorized use occurring adjacent to FS 260, including user created routes and dispersed camping issues. Resource impacts consist of, but are not limited to, disturbance to wildlife (riparian and meadow dependent species) utilizing habitat in the area during biologically significant time periods (breeding season). There are three sites along FS 260 that will be referred to as Site A, Site B, and Site C. User created routes will receive treatments similar to what is done for ML1 roads. Barriers may be utilized to prevent further resource damage.

Site A: Re-contour approximately 75 yards of user created route from FS 260 intersection to “Y”. Decompact up to 90 yards of user created route to the south of the “Y”, and decompact up to 45 yards of user created route to the west of the “Y”.

Site B: Rehab up to 75 feet by 100 feet section of the dispersed camp site. Decompact up to 65 yards of user created route.

Site C: Install barrier on either end of user created route from trailhead marker to turn around. Rehab up to 90 yards of user created route between turnaround loop and the French Creek Trail.

Purpose and Need: This project is proposed to fulfill in part the Payette Forest Plan Goal (FRGO01) to “Provide and maintain safe, efficient Forest transportation system that meets resource management and access needs, while mitigating degrading resource effects.”

This project is being evaluated as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act as provided for in 36CFR 220.6(e)(20) – *Activities that restore, rehabilitate, or stabilize lands occupied by roads and trails, excluding National Forest System Roads and National Forest System lands to a more natural condition that may include removing, replacing, or modifying drainage structures and ditches, reestablishing vegetation, reshaping natural contours and slopes, re-establishing drainage ways, or other activities that would restore site productivity and reduce environmental impacts.*

As a categorical exclusion there are no additional designated public comment periods for this

project so this “scoping” phase is the best opportunity for public input.

Project Area: The project is located on the McCall Ranger District in Valley County, Idaho. The legal description is T21N, R4E, Sec 5. See Figure 1.

Figure 1: Site map

