



File Code: 1950

Date: April 9, 2021

Dear Interested Citizen,

The Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest is initiating an environmental analysis for two projects. The projects are described below and will be analyzed separately. They are not related.

Rimrock Trail Restoration Proposal

The proposed project area is located off the Cascade Lakes Highway, approximately 0.5 miles west of the Forest boundary with the City of Bend (Figure 1). The legal description is Township 18S, Range 11E, Section 14.

This trailhead serves users of the paved path as well as visitors accessing the area for dispersed recreation, including those with a desire for a hiking area without dog leash restrictions. The project area includes a network of unauthorized trails that have been created over time. Proliferation of unauthorized trails in conjunction with use of closed, level 1 roads have created a confusing network of trails.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this project is to protect resources by concentrating existing use and formalizing hiking routes in the Rimrock area. There is a need to more clearly delineate appropriate and sustainable routes and protect natural resources.

Proposed Action

This project proposes to:

- Improve and adopt 4.75 miles of existing unauthorized trails totaling to five new trails. Trails would be designed for a 6 foot wide clearing limit and 2 foot wide tread. Some sections of these proposed trails are old roads and wider tread width may be maintained on these sections. No horses or motorized use would be permitted on these trails.
- Decommission the River Loop Viewpoint Trail #2.7 (625 feet) and River Loop Spur Trail #2.8 (1,024 feet) and remove both trails from the FS trail system.
- Reroute 228 feet of the Deschutes River Trail to better align with the trail junction and to prevent further erosion.
- Restoration of 21.1 miles of unauthorized routes and initiate further closure treatments on .73 miles of previously closed and decommissioned roads. Obliteration and restoration would be completed as resources and capacity allows, riparian areas and core wildlife habitat would be priority. It is anticipated that restoration efforts would occur over many



years and some areas may need multiple treatments. The suite of restoration techniques to be used could include:

- Placement of debris including placement of downed wood, rocks, and small boulders to discourage use and define appropriate foot traffic patterns. Placement of debris may include minor digging and sub-soiling at some points. There is limited debris in the area and debris may be imported from other projects.
 - When needed sign unauthorized trails as closed for restoration at junctions with system trail.
 - Plant native seedlings from locally sourced seed.
 - Planting of native riparian plants from locally sourced seed.
 - Transplant fescue.
 - Strategic wood rail fencing could be used delineate riparian restoration areas, where woody debris is not present.
 - A select few water and climbing access trails would be armored by integrating check dams, stone steps, and water bars to improve and to prevent additional trail proliferation and prevent erosion.
- Nine trail junction post signs would be placed at trail junctions.
 - Reassurance markers and/or “Closed for Revegetation” signs are proposed to be placed at intersections of decommissioned and designated trails to help users to remain on the appropriate trail.
 - One two-sided bulletin board would be placed along the Deschutes River Trail at the edge of Meadow Camp Day Use Area. The downstream side of the board would have information about leash restrictions upstream, the upstream side of the board would have information about the climbing area. The climbing sign would be provided by High Desert Climbers Alliance and would include interpretive and Leave No Trace messaging. A dog poop barrel would also be provided at this location and maintained by High Desert Climbers Alliance or DOGPAC.
 - Most work would be completed with hand crews, but some motorized equipment may be used for trail obliteration and improvement.

Management Direction

The Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) guides all management activities on the Forest. The Rimrock Trails project areas are exclusively within Intensive Recreation Management Area (MA-11) and Wild and Scenic Management Area (MA-17). The objective of this project which is to continue to provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities while concentrating use on a designated network of trails in order to protect natural resources complies with Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines.

Odd Fellows Cabin Restoration Proposal

This project proposes to continue restoration work on 4 cabins within Newberry Caldera about 35 miles south of Bend, OR. The Caldera is part of Newberry National Volcanic Monument (NNVM) and the Bend – Fort Rock Ranger District on the Deschutes National Forest. The 4 Odd Fellow Cabins are located on the southern shore of Paulina Lake. There were originally 11 cabins built by the International Order of the Odd Fellows between the years 1935 and 1939 (see Figure 2 for photo example). The cabins were used for family recreation for many years through special use permits held by the Odd Fellows. Use of the cabins declined over decades and they fell into a state of disrepair.

The site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 but the condition of the cabins continued to decline. In 2010 a feasibility study was conducted to determine how to restore the cabins and to consider possible future uses. The study found that these 4 were best suited for restoration and that use as recreation rentals would provide interesting opportunities for the public to recreate and also to learn the history of the area. Much of the restoration work has been and would continue to be done in partnership with Historicorps which is an organization that provides labor for restoring historic places.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this project is to continue to the ongoing restoration of 4 Odd Fellows cabins to meet occupancy standards while preserving their historic qualities and characteristics. These 4 cabins would then be available as recreational rentals for the public. This project has been designed in coordination with Forest Service Heritage Staff and Historicorps to ensure that all work being done would comply with the standards of the National Register of Historic Places and with the State Historic Preservation Office. Cabin 3 would be restored to meet accessibility standards as well.

There is a need to restore these cabins to prevent them from falling further into a state of disrepair. There is also a need to provide additional recreation rental opportunities on the District.

Proposed Actions

The following table describes the actions that are proposed to restore each of the 4 cabins. Each cabin as different specific needs therefore they are separated out in the table.

Action	Description	Cabin 1	Cabin 2	Cabin 3	Cabin 4	Wildlife Timing Constraint
Replace Roof Shingles	Replace existing shingles with new cedar shake shingles. If roof decking below the shingles is compromised, replace where necessary.	Yes	Yes	Done	Yes	8/15 to 10/1
Stabilize Chimneys	Remove sheet metal, reinforce arch design with ceramic or metal insert, insert sleeves and	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8/15 to 10/1

	interior liners, retain floating chimneys in #2 and #4 and ensure support with footings, secure chimney to wall using rebar and logs. Replace #1 wood stove pipe with new.					
Repair Masonry Foundation	Remove mortar and repair all cracks to stabilize rock base foundations with hand tools.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None
Repair Stem Wall and Piers	Replace old piers with 8 inch x 8 inch pressure treated wood posts in crawlspaces, apply parging to repair failing concrete sections, rebuild crawlspace vents.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None
Build Retaining Walls	Source similar rock as used for foundation of exterior chimney on #1. Hand construct dry masonry retaining wall along the cut-banks to the north side of the cabins.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None
Improve Loft Access	Construct wood railing that mimics railings on porch #2. Install interior ladder systems for primary access replacing cabin #1 drop stairs. Ensure secondary egress and rope ladder for emergency exits are established.	Yes	No	Yes	No	None
Reconstruct Porch	Rebuild porch of #3 to match historic photo representation of original porch. Utilize log materials as represented by #2 porch. Level pier support. Poured footers would be approximately 10 inches diameter and up to 36 inches deep.	No	No	Yes	No	None
Replace Exterior Shake Shingles	Replace damaged wall shakes in kind.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	None

Apply Exterior Daubing	Peel out loose material, where secure apply daubing over existing material, complete all with same daubing material.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Done	None
Reconstruct Windows and Doors	Replace broken glass, reconstruct frames, replace handle and locks.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None
Treat Windows	Apply linseed oil to treat window frames.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None
Treat Doors	Apply linseed oil to treat doors after repairs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None
Reconstruct Floors	Match existing type and size of flooring for the following: #1- small area replace plywood patch 2 foot x 2 foot; # 3- full floor replacement during the structural support work; #4- complete kitchen area flooring 10 foot x 10 foot.	yes	No	Yes	Yes	None
Sand and finish floors	Contract to professionally prepare and treat all floors.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None
Reconstruct Interior Walls	Remove a portion of north bedroom wall in #4 to provide access while completing support improvements for loft.	No	No	No	Yes	None
Remove Tree Boles on Site	Remove tree boles with bobcat or front-end loader. Stump grinding would occur with a walk behind or bobcat attachment grinder down to approx. 3" below existing grade. Native soils from the cut-banks along south side of cabins would be used to cover.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None
Grey Water Drain Lines	Install grey water drain lines from each cabin to 1,000 gallon septic tank in location of existing tank in front of #1. New septic PVC pipe would be set at depth of up to 3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None

	inches and up to 1 inches wide.					
ABA Retrofit and Pathway	Reconstruct back east facing door and front north facing door to accessible width. Construct ramp to access side door from back, adjust counter to meet ABA requirements. Construct a 3-foot-wide compactable fines access route from paved accessible parking space nearby to east facing back entrance of Cabin #3. Identify 3 foot access route from #3 ramp to water hydrant on site. Establish water hydrant height and landing area to accessibility standards. Standards will balance adherence to Forest Service Outdoor Accessibility Guidelines and historic preservation techniques as coordinated with SHPO.	No	No	Yes	No	None
Heating System and Fireplaces	Inspect chimney and fireplaces. Complete repairs as identified and insert sleeves to support wood burning systems. Each cabin would have an electric heat source and wood burning stove. The electric system would utilize existing abandoned fireplaces to insert electric retrofit heaters.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8/15 - 10/1
Electric Service	Test current conductors, locate existing buried conduit, install buried conductor in conduit to # 2 and #3 if no existing buried conduit. Install new breakers in each cabin. Replace conductor wire in the interior with methods that mask its existence where feasible. Replace fixtures, switches and outlets with character compatible designs. New conduit would be buried at	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None

	a depth of 36 inches in a 6 foot wide trench set with a walk-behind 4 foot tooth trencher.					
Counter, Cabinet, Sink	Reconstruct, or enhance kitchen counter cabinets and adjacent shelving for each. #3 would meet accessibility requirements. Install ventilation fans in each kitchen space to code.	Improve	New	New	Improve	None
Foot Path from Cabin Parking	Construct a 2-foot-wide tread between parking and cabins. Limb trees and remove small diameter vegetation. Spread and compact fines over tread. Install signpost at both ends.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None
Firepit installation	Install an accessible fire pit adjacent to each. Each pit location would be of level grade with approx. 4 foot perimeter of compactable fines.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None
Interpretive Plan and Panels	Development and installation of interpretive panels about the Odd Fellows Cabins. Coordinate with heritage program on location of signs and interpretive information.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None
Amenity and Safety Design	Coordinate with heritage and facilities program to identify furnishing, window coverings, placement of safety sensors and fire extinguishers.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None

Management Direction

The Odd Fellows Cabin Restoration project is within the Intensive Recreation Management Area (MA-11) of the Forest Plan. It is also within Newberry National Volcanic Monument (NNVM) which is subject to the standards and guidelines from the NNVM Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). Within that plan the cabins are located within the Caldera Zone. The project as proposed supports the objectives for both the Intensive Recreation and the Caldera Zone by continuing to provide diverse recreation opportunities while also preserving the culture and history within the Monument.

Public Involvement and How to Provide Comments

I'm asking for your input on this project to help determine if there are any issues or resource concerns that we might not already be aware of. It would be most helpful to received input by May 7, 2021. Submit comments by email to: comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-bend-ftrock@usda.gov and list either "Rimrock Trails" or "Odd Fellows" in the subject line.

Comments must be submitted as part of an actual email message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), or portable document format (pdf) only. Comments submitted to other email addresses, in any other format, or that contain viruses will be rejected.

Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. However, if necessary, comments may be submitted by post mail to: Kevin Larkin, District Ranger, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, 63095 Deschutes Market Road, Bend, OR 97701. Hand delivered comments are discouraged at this time.

This project falls within a category of action that may be excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. For more information, please contact Cristina Peterson, NEPA Planner, at 541-383-4028 or cristina.peterson@usda.gov.

NOTICE: Documents associated with this project, including public comments, are part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process 40 CFR parts 1500 – 1508 and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 5 U.S.C. 552. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents or the eligibility to object.

Thank you for your interest in the Deschutes National Forest.

Sincerely,

KEVIN W. LARKIN

District Ranger

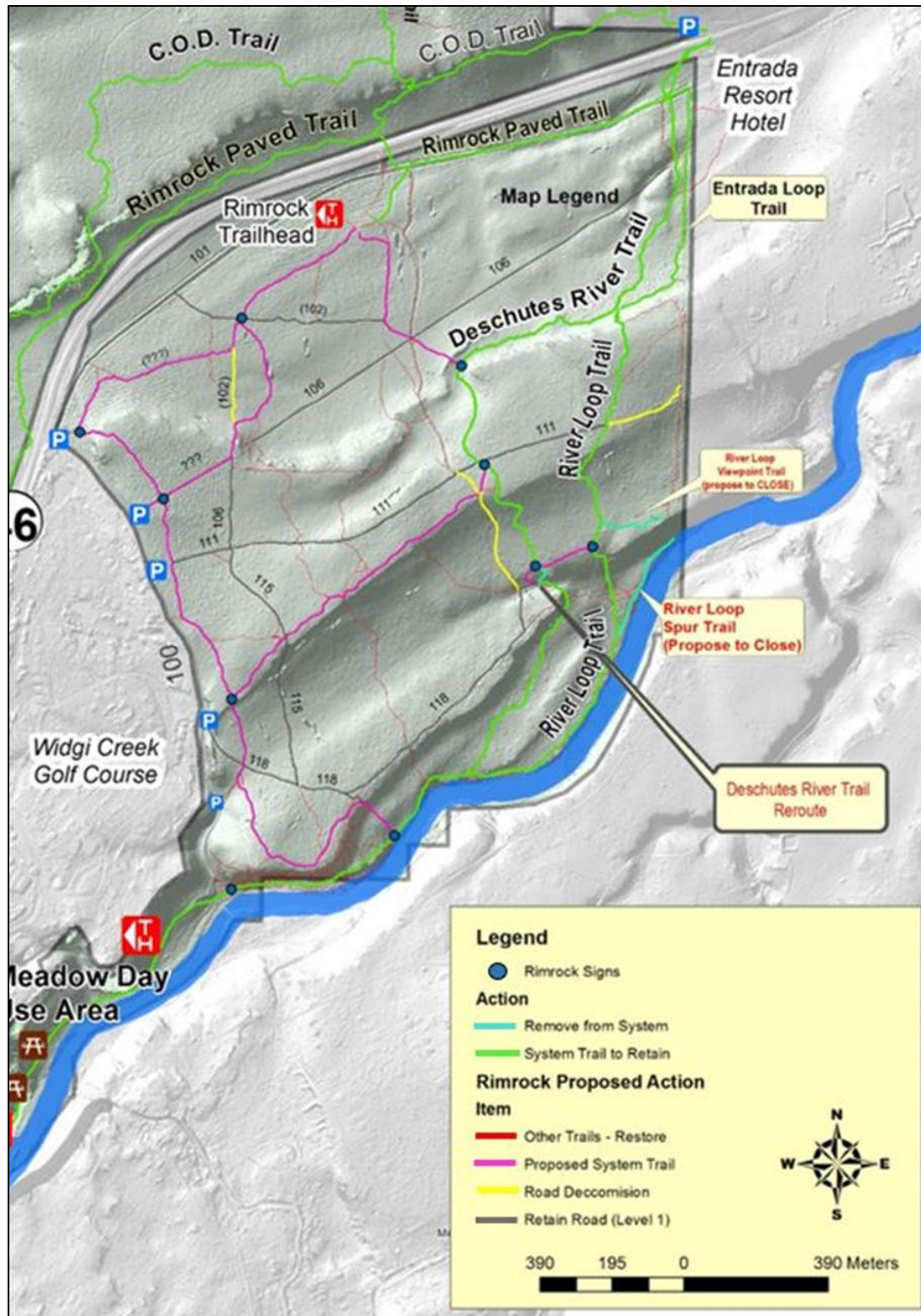


Figure 1. Rimrock Trails Proposed Routes



Figure 2. Photo of Odd Fellows Cabin 3